THE OXFORD PAPER

Thursday, April 5, 2018 No.86 theoxfordpaper.co.uk 60p

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Robbo rallies his troops after poor run Sport

Weekly leisure guide for in & around Oxford

Historic, much-loved venue 'could reopen for business'

Return for speedway and dogs

By George Welch

SPEEDWAY and greyhound racing could return to the 'iconic' Oxford Stadium after a 'milestone' report claimed it has a 'viable' future.

Consultants said last week that "a commercially viable solution" could be found for the Cowley arena, which last enjoyed professional sport in 2012.

Oxford City Council, which commissioned the report, has been told that a fully functioning stadium has the potential to create 62 full time jobs and generate more than £3.1million for Oxfordshire's economy.

Consultants added the re-opening would enhance the stadium's status as a community asset.

Councillor Linda Smith, deputy leader of the city council and board member for leisure, parks and sport, welcomed the report.

"This is an important milestone in the future development of Oxford Stadium," she said.

"This report shows how with the right investment, and support from the governing bodies of greyhound racing and speedway and local people, this historic and much-loved venue could re-open for business as a major sports and hospitality centre while also maintaining community uses."

Cllr Smith, who represents nearby Blackbird Leys, added: "I accept a lot more work needs to be done to firm up the future of the stadium but I know bringing it back to life would be welcomed by the people of Oxford.

"Many Oxford families, especially in the Leys area of the city, have supported it for decades.

"The return of motor sport [speedway] in a city renowned for its motor manufacturing would be both apt and symbolic."

The consultants report looked at the commercial opportunities, challenges associated with re-introducing greyhound racing and speedway as well as expanding what it could provide in the form of other leisure activities.

The city council has now commissioned stage two of the study which will flesh out the commercial options and should be completed by the summer.

Key parties in greyhound racing and speedway as well as community groups such as Save our Stadium, will be consulted in the next stage.

Oxford Stadium hosted the two sports for more than 70 years from 1939 until 2012, but has been untouched since then after developers were refused permission to build housing.

Consultants have stressed several key challenges need to be overcome, including the creation of a new Oxford speedway team and its benefit as a non-race day venue.

Follow the trail for a grand day at the Westgate

SHOPPERS can enjoy a Grand Day Out after Gromit was spotted in the Westgate.

Models of the much-loved dog by fans of Wallace and Gromit are on show at the £440m centre as part of a special Gromit trail.

Fans of the clay animation comedy series created by Nick Park, can buy a Gromit Unleashed map for £2 and follow the Easter trail of 10 sculptures throughout the centre.

Proceeds from the map trail will go towards the Bristol Children's Hospital Charity's Grand Appeal. Aardman Animations, which produces the Wallace and Gromit films, is based in Bristol.

Gromit will be in town until April 15.

Amelie had a hands on experience with a giant Gromit statue on her visit
Picture: *Karen Dunkley*

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ILIFFE PRINT

Solicitor's mother found dead, neglected on sofa

By George Welch

A WOMAN whose mother was found dead 'head to toe in faeces' has been found guilty of neglect

Didcot solicitor Emma-Jane Kurtz, who specialised in advising the elderly was convicted of wilful neglect at Oxford Crown Court last week following a two week trial.

Her mum, Cecily, was found emaciated and slumped in their Blackwater Way living room in July 2014.

The incontinent 79-year-old, who had depression and obsessive compulsive disorder, was found wearing the same clothes as a decade ago with matted dreadlocks and urine burns.

The alarm was raised when medical crews who visited Kurtz's home after Mrs Kurtz died on the sofa, became concerned about the condition of the property and of Mrs Kurtz prompting officers to launch an investigation.

But in court nearly four years later 41 year-old Kurtz claimed her mum was the most important person in her life and she would never have intentionally neglected her.

She said she failed to help because her mum pleaded with her not to

Investigating officer Detective Constable Francesca Griffin, of Force CID based at Abingdon Police Station, said, "Mrs Kurtz, who lived with her husband and daughter Emma-Jane was found on a sofa and she had been slumped over with her chin on her knees for five days

"She had become incontinent and was covered from head to toe in faeces had not changed her clothing for a decade and had urine burns. Her long hair had become matted into dreadlocks

"Emma-Jane Kurtz said she had gone in to the room with her mother in three or four times a day

"There had been many opportunities over months and years to help her and remove her from that situation."

Kurtz who also cares for her father who has extensive health needs was charged in connection with the offence in April last year

She is due to be sentenced at the same court on Friday April 27 and was granted unconditional bail.

Churchill Hospital to trial 'one-stop' cancer tests

CANCER diagnosis for some patients in Oxford will be fast tracked as part of a new trial which will see special 'one-stop shops' introduced across England.

East Oxford's Churchill Hospital has been selected as one of 10 hospitals to take part in the national trial.

The aim is to catch the disease earlier and prevent patients from being referred for several tests for different forms of the illness.

The one-stop shops mean GPs can refer patients suffering from "vague" symptoms including unexplained weight loss, abdominal pain and fatigue to assessment centres to undergo multiple tests for different cancers

The Churchill is one of 10 centres involved in the new trial

Patients often face delays when they have non specific symptoms but the trial could lead the way to same-day diagnosis in some cases

Cally Palmer national director for Cancer at NHS England said the new centres could play a key role in improving diagnosis and treatment

"Early diagnosis is crucial to saving lives and providing peace of mind for patients which is why we are driving forward plans to revolutionise our approach to cancer in this country," she said.

InBrief

Man found in road

A MAN died after being hit by a car on a rural west Oxfordshire road.

Police and paramedics attended the incident shortly after 2am on Sunday on the A424 between Burford and Fifield.

Officers said the 42-year-old man was lying in the road before being hit by a white BMW

The driver stopped at the scene and no arrests have been made

The man was confirmed dead at the scene and officers are working to locate his next of kin.

Investigating officer, Sergeant Gavin Collier, of the Joint Operations Unit for Roads Policing, based at Leicester said "We are particularly interested in talking to anyone at all who travelled on the A424 at any point between Stow and Burford between the hours of midnight and 2am."

Contact police quoting reference number 143 (1/4) with information.

Fifth person charged

ANOTHER man has been charged in connection with a murder investigation in Oxford.

Christopher Lemonius, 27, was found injured in Jourdain Road, Blackbird Leys on June 1 last year and died in hospital.

Brendan Flanagan, 45, of Longlands Road, Oxford, was charged with perverting the course of justice on March 1

He will appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on April 12

Since Mr Lemonius death, six people have been charged with murder and five with perverting the course of justice, including Flanagan

The trial of the six accused of murder started on Tuesday.

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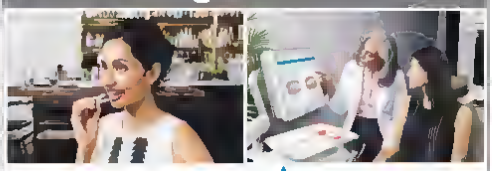

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Hop aboard for complete Oxperience

OXFORD tourists have another reason to visit the city following the launch of a value-for-money ticket linking bus journeys, entry to top visitor attractions and discounts at Westgate restaurants

Owned by Oxford Bus Company, City Sightseeing started the new 'Oxperience' ticket deal on Good Friday to help keep prices down for visitors to the city

The ticket is available Monday to Friday and is £33 for an adult which includes the 24-hour Hop On Hop Off bus tour incorporating a tour of Oxford Castle and prison, entry to the Sheldonian Theatre and a tour of the Bodleian Library

The ticket also includes discounts at various Westgate restaurants

City Sightseeing general manager Jane Marshall said "Oxford is a beautiful city and has some fantastic attractions however ticketing for visitors has been a little confusing to date so we have created a package that is simple to access and provides a one ticket solution benefitting customers and the attractions."

Jane Marshall, general manager of City Sightseeing Oxford promotes the new combo saver ticket for visitors

Phil Southall, Oxford Bus Company managing director added that joining up services is a 'key component' of the firm's strategy

Hammer-wielding thieves raid shop

By George Welch

DETAILS of three men who threatened staff with a hammer before raiding a food store of cash and cigarettes have been released.

The attack happened at about 10.10am at the Co-Op in Main Road, Long Hanborough on Sunday March 25

Two members of staff, a 39-year-old woman and a 28-year old man, were forced to open a staff room safe by two men armed with a wooden post and a hammer

The robbers emptied the safe while a third man patrolled the front of the store to check for anyone arriving.

Cash was stolen and the cigarette cabinet was raided before the employees had their mobile phones stolen and car keys taken from them.

They were then tied up with cables and barricaded in a room.

The offenders left in one of the employee s blue Ford Focus which has since been recovered.

The staff members both unharmed, managed to free themselves.

Police are now appealing for witnesses and information, in particular dash cam footage.

All three men have been described as around 5ft 9ins tall.

The first offender wore a blue bandana with the eye holes cut out and a blue hooded top with the hood up He was carrying a wooden post

The second also wore a blue hooded top and had a bandana covering his face He was wearing light blue tracksuit bottoms.

Police said the last offender had a slight Birmingham accent and was wearing a black hooded top and a black balaclava. He wore black tracksuit bottoms and black shoes

Investigating officer Detective Constable Bryan Groves based at Banbury police station, said. "This was a very distressing incident for the victims and a team of officers have been in the area investigating the incident.

"I would like to speak to anyone who was driving in the area at the time and has dash cam footage as they may have recorded the suspects driving in the area at the time of the offence."

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180090843 with information.

Scoring with Sport Relief

AUTISTIC students in Oxford hopped skipped and jumped their way to raising more than £400 for charity last week.

Students at LVS Oxford, a school for 11 to 18 year olds with autism began the fundraising event on Monday last week with a sponsored mile

Students could run walk or join together for an added three or four legged challenge to encourage teamwork and communication.

The main event saw students avenging last year s defeat in the staff versus students football match with an emphatic 3-1 victory

Students were responsible for collecting sponsorship money and planning the events and costumes.

More than £400 was raised for Sport Relief with sponsorship money still coming in.

LVS students enjoyed the staff v students Sport Relief football match

Health and fitness tutor Katie Gatt said: "Participating in sports is really important to students with autism as it helps them grow their confidence fitness levels and gives them a sense of achievement

"It also helps many of them regulate sensory issues and calm them if they are feeling anxious."

She added that the atmosphere was "fantastic" with some students expressing themselves through fancy dress

Head of school Louisa Allison-Bergin said she is "really proud of all the students" and grateful for their efforts supporting "this fantastic cause"

InBrief

Distraction burglary

AN 88-year old woman fell victim to distraction burglars who conned her out of £800

Two men approached her at her home in Station Road, Wallingford on Thursday last week telling her the roof needed repairing.

One of the men convinced her she needed to pay him cash and she handed over £800 They took the money and tried to steal her bankcard. She challenged them and they fled, driving off in a white van.

Both men are white and were wearing orange high-vis tops one was aged 45 to 50 and the other was 20 to 30 years old.

Call police on 101, quoting 43180093798 if you have any information.

Footbridge closed

THE Environment Agency has closed the Seacourt Stream footbridge near Wolvercote

A routine structural assessment found cracks and agency staff decided to close the bridge indefinitely for safety reasons.

Signs have been placed on the bridge which is situated about 100m upstream of Kings Lock on the River Thames to alert anyone intending to use it that it is closed.

Volunteer fair

VOLUNTEER groups in Bicester are invited to take part in a fair at the leisure centre on April 20 to showcase the opportunities available for young people in their organisation.

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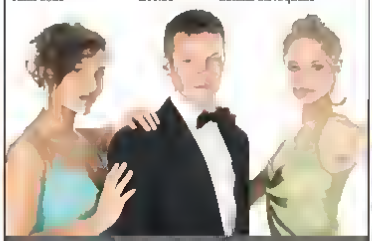
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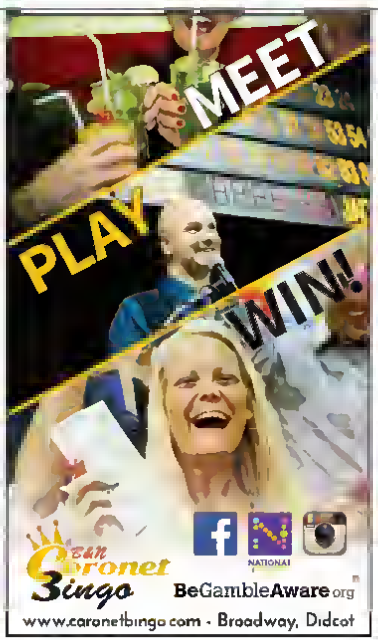

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Charter to end rough sleeping

By George Welch

A CHARTER aiming to eradicate rough sleeping in Oxford will be proposed in the summer as the city's battle with homelessness progressed to the next stage.

Oxford City Council announced at the end of last month that the authority and its partners had agreed the next steps of a strategy towards helping those sleeping rough.

The announcement of the forthcoming charter follows a City Conversation event last November during which a wide range of groups discussed how the issue could be tackled.

The charter is the next stage and further views – including those of current and former rough sleepers – will be asked from groups who have a direct interest in homelessness.

The council and its partners will then publish the Rough Sleeping Charter, which will be accompanied by a citywide partnership board.

Councillor Mike Rowley, responsible for housing and the council, said: "The effects of the national homelessness crisis are all too obvious on the streets of Oxford, so I am delighted we are taking the City Conversation forward with some of our key local partners.

"Together, we will produce proposals for a citywide partnership to tackle rough sleeping and a Rough Sleeping Charter in the early summer."

The council will pay £150,000 over the next two years to support the City Conversation and fund the development of the charter and permanent partnership board.

Claire Dowan, chief executive of Homeless Oxfordshire, welcomed the announcement.

She said: "The issue of rough sleeping is complex and moving people off the streets requires complex support and solutions.

"A system change needs to happen. The City Conversation is a real opportunity and I look forward to seeing how this develops and working collectively to reduce street homelessness."

Cllr Rowley added: "If a charter and a permanent partnership can be agreed, the real hard work to deliver our vision – that nobody should have to sleep rough on the streets of Oxford – will then begin."

InBrief

Pedestrian hit

A VEHICLE mounted the pavement in Oxford and hit a pedestrian before speeding off.

The hit and run incident took place at around 1am on Saturday when the vehicle hit a 20-year-old man in New Road.

The man's leg was grazed and he sustained minor bruising.

Police are treating it as an isolated incident that was part of an earlier altercation between two groups of men.

Tourism awards

OXFORD Visitor Information Centre on Bread Street has been shortlisted for an industry award.

The centre picked up a nomination in the Visitor Information Provider of the Year category at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence.

Winners will be named on April 23.

Rate relief on offer

MORE than 150 small businesses in Oxford are set to benefit from an extra £118,000 in rate relief.

The extra rate relief comes as part of Oxford City Council's Discretionary Relief Scheme, which has already provided more than £261,000 to 253 small businesses.

Due to a printing error the incorrect page appeared in this edition last week – we apologise for not giving readers news from their area.

Museum well on the way to new look after lottery cash

THE Museum of Oxford's fundraising campaign could soon be a thing of the past after receiving more than half of its target from a single donation.

The St Aldate's institution was last week awarded a grant of £1.63million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Funding will contribute towards the £3.2m project to transform the museum. So far £1,870,700 has been raised in total.

Councillor Dee Sinclair, city council board member for culture and communities, praised the fundraising efforts behind the scene, adding: "It is wonderful to see this project take off."

Under the redevelopment the Old Museum, which was partially closed in 2011, will triple in size and increase the number of exhibits from 200 to around 750.

The application for HLF funding was submitted in September 2015 in response to public demand for a larger space.

Michelle Roffe, head of HLF in the South East, said: "As the city's only museum dedicated to its people and history this project is vital to continuing to preserve and share the hidden histories of Oxford's community."

The Museum of Oxford's Development Trust is still fundraising towards its £450,000 contribution. So far £94,000 has been raised.

Visit tinyurl.com/y98q8g4g to contribute.

Council employees Kate Toomey, left, and Vanessa Lea, right, who both work on the project with city councillor Bob Price at the Museum of Oxford celebrating the donation

Digging deep in the woods for dinosaurs

OXFORD nursery children grabbed their trowels and slipped on their wellies for a dinosaur hunt of prehistoric proportions.

Children at Bright Horizons Jack Straws Lane Nursery and Preschool at the University of Oxford dug for hidden dinosaurs in the nearby woodland area.

Staff from the nursery organised the dig following the children's interest in the prehistoric creatures.

Using the tools provided, the children were encouraged to dig in the dirt for dinosaurs buried specifically for the activity.

Wearing high vis jackets and bright yellow hard hats, children braved the wintery weather to dig up the dinosaurs.

They used water trays to clean the excavated dinosaurs, writing down the names of their exciting discoveries as they found them.

Children fully embraced the activity, drawing pictures of their favourite findings and sharing them with classmates.

Nursery manager Sue Aldridge said: "All of the children absolutely loved this activity and were particularly keen to draw and write about their dinosaur.

"Candy Floss, our health and safety mascot, was also on hand to make sure we were staying safe and using our tools safely."

It was smiles all round as youngsters including Joshua Bebbs dug through the dirt for their dinosaur discoveries

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WOBA 2018 winners are all smiles at the event at Heythrop Park Resort

Global travel business wins award at 'home'

By George Welch

A BESPOKE travel company that has expanded to the USA has been named West Oxfordshire's Business of the Year 2018.

Audley Travel was revealed as the winner of this year's West Oxfordshire Business Awards (WOBA) at a ceremony at Heythrop Park Resort last month.

Judges said the company deserved recognition for its strong and flexible leadership, impressive business growth and for becoming a major employer in West Oxfordshire with over 300 staff at its head office in Witney.

It has a further 480 employees split between London and Boston offices.

The firm, based in New Mill Lane was also presented with the Sandler Training Large Business of the Year award.

Ben Colbridge of Audley Travel, said: "Although we are a truly global business, our company has been based in Oxfordshire for the majority of its lifetime and we are proud of our Witney location.

"Audley's ethos is very much about 'one team' – one of our values – so this award really does mean something to everyone at Audley."

Audley Travel team celebrate being named business of the year with Bill Smith of STL Communications

Other winners included Witney women's clothes shop Sassi, which picked up the NFU Retail Award.

Co-founder Lisa Clements said: "We felt that we were winners anyway but being a WOBA winner really is the icing on the cake. We are two working mums who had a dream 10 years ago and we have made our dream happen."

WOBA spokesperson Jo Sensecall congratulated all the winners. She said: "All of them deserve the recognition that winning a business award provides to help shine a light on their hard work dedication and what is being achieved collectively to help ensure our district continues to thrive."

More than £2,800 was raised on the night for Bridewell Organic Gardens, a meets health charity that provides horticultural and therapeutic care.

WOBA 2018 Winners

Huffkins Hospitality Leisure & Tourism Award – **Manor Cottages**
NFU Mutual Retail Award - **Sassi**
The Roaflight Company Charity Award - **Volunteer Link up**
First Sight Media Marketing Excellence Award - **The Shake Shop**
Owen Mumford Innovation Award - **Safety Services UK**
The MGroup Employer of the Year Award - **Aston & James**
Blenheim Palace New Business Award - **Tickttyshake**
Witney BIC Micro Business Award - **Push Start Marketing**
NatWest Small Business Award : **Panoramic Journeys**
Sandler Training Large Business Award - **Audley Travel**
Wise Investment Business Person of the Year Award - **Sheena Marsh of Oxford Garden Design**
Cally Robson Award (in honour of former WOBA team member who passed away awarded by the WOBA Team to a company or individual to recognise entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to the community) – **Hunter's Cake Cafe**
STL Communications West Oxfordshire Business of the Year Award – **Audley Travel**

Fly-tipper caught in the act

A FLY-TIPPER who dumped three van loads of waste including mattresses and building waste, at the same spot in Oxford has been fined.

John Francis Joyce, 29 of Redbridge Hollow Oxford, admitted three counts of illegal dumping of waste at Oxford Magistrates Court on March 27

Magistrates heard how Joyce was caught on camera discarding three van loads of waste on Allotment Road, Redbridge Hollow, on September 20, 21 and 23 last year

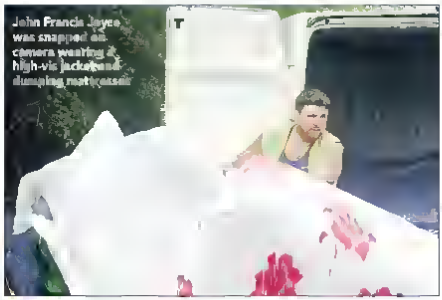
Joyce was ordered to pay a total of £1,580.56 which included court costs, clear-up costs and a fine.

He was caught on camera and on one occasion was snapped wearing a high-vis jacket

The land is owned by Oxford City Council but is in the Vale of White Horse District Council area. It was the Vale's environmental protection team and legal department that prosecuted

Councillor Elaine Ware cabinet member for environmental services at Vale said: "This was a brazen flouting of the law where the defendant returned again and again to dump illegal waste at the same spot.

"We will not tolerate this behaviour which blights our landscapes and people s lives and we will do our utmost to prosecute offenders "



High water level forces rowing to be cancelled

HIGH water levels have caused one of the biggest events in Abingdon s calendar the Spring Head of the River to be cancelled for the second time in three years

Thousands of people were expected to descend on the River Thames this Sunday to watch 360 crews battle it out at the Abingdon Rowing Club (ARC) event.

But the club made the difficult decision to cancel the 2 000 metre upstream race on Monday due to safety reasons after river levels rose over the weekend.

It said the fast currents and forecasted rain meant it would be unsafe for rowers

ARC spokesman Paul Wenman said. "We don t take such decisions lightly —rowers are a barely bunch and only significant safety risks keep us off the water

"Although this is the second time we have had to cancel, it s actually rare —prior to that we hadn't cancelled for over 25 years

"This is a major disappointment for the club As well as the huge amount of work invested over many months by members, it is our main annual source of revenue

"It is also regrettable for Abingdon – we had about 1 500 visitors to the town last year, helping to widen the town's appeal as a centre for leisure and business."

Horton A&E decision welcomed

By George Welch

THE future of A&E and children's services at Horton General Hospital are no longer in danger after the second phase of a controversial consultation into the county s health services was scrapped.

Health provider Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group last week unanimously agreed to reconsider the unpopular changes to secure the key services

The vote also brought the decision to permanently downgrade the maternity unit at the Banbury hospital, as part of phase one of its Transformation Plan, back under review

OCCG chief executive Louise Patten said she was "delighted" by the decision

"We can start to plan a new approach for engaging communities on the issues that affect them locally" she said.

"Integrating health and social care at a local level with local people fully involved will bring benefits for patients as well as improvements for the system."

The new measures, approved at a Banbury Town Hall meeting last Thursday were prompted by a government review of the first phase consultation

The Independent Reconfiguration Panel condemned the OCCG last month for raising 'confusion and suspicion' by running a two phase consultation that would inevitably overlap.

The OCCG has now promised to deliver on a new approach that will work with communities across the county "to understand the local health needs the local resources and facilities available and together to plan integrated health and care services for the future"

Patients, the public, clinicians and voluntary organisations will all be involved in this work.

Health bosses also pledged that NHS organisations and social care would work closer together and a plan for how this engagement will work will be shared soon

It is hoped a joint scrutiny committee will be up and running by the end of May to oversee transitions.

Dr Bruno Holthof, chief executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, also welcomed last week s decision, saying there is a demonstrable need to maintain and enhance urgent care provision in north Oxfordshire.

He added. "Downgrading the department to an urgent care centre or shutting the department completely were never viable options "

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News

Leisure centres dip into helping foodbank with free swims

THERE was something fruity going on at leisure centres across Oxfordshire last month as children were allowed to swim for free – but only if they brought an avocado to the pool with them

More than 200 children and 10 Better leisure centres made a splash in the somewhat bizarre #AvoDip campaign, with the fruit collected then donated to Didcot-based food charity Fare Share

The initiative began with a spoof phone call from Heart FM Thames Valley to Better's Didcot Wave leisure centre asking if it offered an avocado discount

The management team embraced the challenge and the #AvoDip free swim was born

Better leisure centres across the county in Didcot Henley, Thame Abingdon, Faringdon, Bennsfield Wantage Chipping Norton Witney and Carterton all took part.

All children involved were under the age of eight

Ashley Debell, general manager at Didcot Wave, said: "Thank you to Matt and Michelle on Heart FM Thames Valley who started it all by calling the centre asking if we offered an avocado discount

"The campaign has been great fun and a huge success, encouraging more families to go swimming and enabling us to donate to a local foodbank."

Richard Kennell, of Fare Share, received the donation of avocados and promised the fruit would go to a good home

From left, Richard Kennell, project manager at Fare Share, Ashley Debell, general manager at Didcot Wave; Nay Johnstone Fare Share apprentice and Val Mackay, health and fitness supervisor at Didcot Wave with a bowl of avocados and two aubergines

Route prompts fear for wildlife

RARE wildlife habitats and ancient woodlands could be impacted by the proposed route for the Oxford Cambridge corridor

The Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust will host a hustings on April 18 at 6pm in St Edburg's Church, Bicester for authorities within the Growth Corridor to debate housing plans and the proposed expressway

Tom Beckett, the Wildlife Trust's director of external affairs, said, "There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that we need new homes especially affordable homes

"The question is where and how should they be built?

"We know how important it is for infrastructure planners to have the most up to date information about the local and rare wildlife habitats including ancient woodlands and floodplain meadows so they can be avoided or potential harm mitigated."

Councillor John Cotton, Cllr Richard Webber Cllr Rev Dick Wolf and Cllr Sean Woodcock will be at the meeting chaired by Dr Tim Marshall from Oxford Brookes University

On Wednesday last week, Matthew Barber leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, wrote to the secretary of state for transport calling for more public engagement on the expressway before a decision is made

The hustings is free to attend, but people are asked to register at www.bbowt.org.uk/hustings18

Dinner invite sparks sexism row

By George Welch

AN Oxford University department which sent out invitations to a dinner encouraging alumni to bring "partners and wives" has been accused of sexism.

The email was sent from the Department of Materials Alumni Association, asking if graduates would like to attend a dinner event at St Edmund Hall.

Former student Dr Anna Ploszajski received the reunion invite and tweeted it using the widespread #everydaysexism hashtag, popularly used to share instances of sexism experienced on a day-to-day basis

The award winning materials scientist and engineer posted on Twitter: "In which universe is it acceptable to say 'partners and wives are very welcome' on an invitation?"

The departmental invite sparked criticism on social media following Dr Ploszajski's tweet.

Former Great British Bake Off contestant Andrew Smyth was among those to voice criticism saying it was a "poor show"

Also responding to the tweet, current Oxford PhD student Sally Le Page, pointed out that addressing the invite to alumnus was also incorrect as it used the male singular form of the word.

Another posted ironically "Bring along the little lady the poor dear won't understand any of the long words but she can sit and smile politely"

A spokesperson said the university was "committed to gender equality" and was investigating the matter

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Rogue landlord fined again for poor conditions

OXFORD tenants were forced to live in unsafe conditions by a rogue landlord who has been prosecuted for the second time in six months.

Imtiaz Gulzar, 41, of Cowley Road, appeared at Oxford Magistrates Court on March 20 where he was fined £10 000 and ordered to pay Oxford City Council £1 535 in costs.

Gulzar was successfully prosecuted for the second time in six months for failing to comply with Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) regulations at a large property on Cowley Road.

In November, Gulzar was prosecuted for failing to comply with the conditions of the HMO licence for a property in Iffley Road, Oxford.

He was fined £2 500 and ordered to pay £1 425 in costs.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth said, "The city council is committed to ensuring high standards in the private rented sector and protecting tenants against landlords who do not meet their responsibilities under the law.

"I am pleased that in this second prosecution of Mr Gulzar, the court imposed a higher fine than in the first case."

The council will begin using new financial penalty powers that came into force in April last year to issue fines of up to £30 000 without the need to go through the courts.

Prime Minister's tribute to campaigning families

By George Welch

THERESA May used last week's PMQs to pay tribute to Connor Sparrowhawk's family for their unwavering campaign for justice.

The Prime Minister was challenged in the House of Commons on health services and insisted lessons have been learnt from the tragedy.

She added that Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust would have a 'comprehensive' inspection by healthcare regulator the CQC later this year.

As reported last week, Southern Health was fined £2million for the deaths of Oxford teenager Connor, who drowned in a bath, and Hampshire woman Teresa Colvin.

The following day Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn quizzed Mrs May about Southern Health.

The 64-year-old said during PMQs last Wednesday: "I hope the whole house will join me in paying tribute to the families of Connor Sparrowhawk and Teresa Colvin for their dignity in campaigning for answers about the deaths of their loved ones at the hands of Southern Health.

"How confident is the Prime Minister that deaths like Connor's and Teresa's could not happen today?"

Connor Sparrowhawk died in a bath at Slade House in 2013

The Prime Minister replied: "The very sad deaths we saw with Teresa Colvin and Connor Sparrowhawk do raise very real questions.

"I join him [Mr Corbyn] in paying tribute to the families for the way in which they have campaigned on this particular issue.

"Obviously those incidents took place some time ago and lessons have been learnt by the health and social care system as a result of the failings of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust."

She added: "A comprehensive CQC inspection into Southern Health is expected later this year."

Connor's mother Sara Ryan said Laughing Boy Connor's nickname would be 'chuffed' to see the exchange.

The 18-year-old, who had autism, epilepsy and a learning disability, drowned in the bath at Southern Health run Slade House in Headington in 2013.

Dr Ryan said after the sentencing that the #JusticeforLB campaign "has shone a light on systemic failings in the care of learning disabled people".

She added, "We have collectively and effectively revealed weaknesses in regulatory practices, a disregard for the lives and deaths of certain people and the limitations of work by large established charities in this area."

InBrief

Centre's cash boost

PEOPLE needing independent advice and help with transport around the Wantage area will continue to receive support thanks to a £174 000 council grant for an advice centre.

The Wantage Independent Advice Centre (WIAC) offers advice and transport to people in and around Wantage, Grove and Faringdon.

The centre was founded in 1971 with a small group of volunteers providing an information service and advice from a small office in Falcon Court. It has been based at its current Market Place home since 1995 and has about 110 volunteers.

Its work has been supported by a three-year partnership grant of £58,000 per annum from 2016/10 to 2020/21 by Vale of White Horse District Council.

Find out more on council funding at whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants

Dehumidifier blaze

A BENSON family had a lucky escape after their dehumidifier went up in flames in the night.

Fire crews from Wallingford, Didcot and Goring extinguished the blaze at the home in Blenheim Place on Thursday last week.

Andy Halstead from Didcot Fire Station said, "It was very fortunate the family had working smoke alarms and woke up when they did."

The family including a baby and a dog, escaped the fire unharmed.

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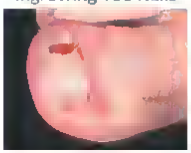

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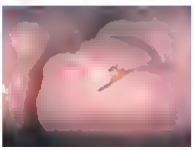

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News

Tower block repair costs reduced

By Owen Hughes

OXFORD tower block leaseholders lumbered with extortionate repair costs have been told they will pay less than 10 per cent of the original figure.

The revised service charge follows a tribunal ruling that the 54 leaseholders in Blackbird Leys, Cowley and North Way were not obliged to pay for improvements, only for repairs.

The original £20million tower block repairs project would have meant residents stumping up around £50 000

But a new ruling has significantly reduced that figure to around £3,000 each

At the first tier tribunal in September last year, Oxford City Council informed leaseholders of the cost of repairs following a determination on service charges for Plowman Tower, Headington.

Negotiations were held between the council and the Oxford Towerblocks Leaseholders Association (OTLA) to arrive at the final service charges for leaseholders in the remaining four tower blocks

Ahead of starting work, the council was required to list the elements of the repairs and whether these were determined to be repairs – and therefore recoverable from leaseholders – or an improvement.

The value of the items considered to be repairs for each leaseholder totalled £48 706 75.

OTLA applied to HM Courts & Tribunals Service for a ruling on charges that were reasonable.

The tribunal ruled work on the roof, windows, balconies doors, ventilation, cladding and sprinklers was not considered repayable and a new figure has been determined for Plowman Tower of £2 040 85

Deputy chairman of the Oxford Conservative Association, Mark Bhagwandin and a resident of Plowman Towers who did not wish to be named, called a meeting of leaseholders in January 2016, where the OTLA was formed.

He said. "I commend OTLA for standing firm over the years and for its successful battle against these absolutely unjustified charges

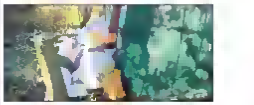
"Many were facing the prospect of Oxford City Council seizing their homes when they died in order to recover the £50 000 bill.

"I will now be asking Oxford City Council how much of taxpayers money it has wasted to fight these leaseholders."

Stephen Clarke, head of housing & property services, said the tribunal has "provided much needed certainty to leaseholders" and the improvements were "widely welcomed by residents and are much valued and appreciated"

Repair costs have been reduced for Plowman Tower
Picture Steve Daniels

Waste reminder after fly-tipping



A VILLAGER has been fined £150 for leaving bags next to a recycling bank in Yarnton.

The fly tip at the Cassington Road recycling point was reported to Cherwell District Council by another resident

Environmental enforcement officers then discovered items identifying the address where the waste had come from and the householder accepted the fine.

They also said "very little" of the dumped waste could have been recycled anyway

Ed Potter the council's assistant director for environmental services, said: "If a recycling bank is full, it is very important that people take waste home or to the tip

"Even if you have good intentions and leave recycling bagged up nicely next to the correct bin, it acts as a signal to others that waste can be left there

"In this case the waste was a mixture of materials and very little of it could have been recycled in the banks it was left next to."

Information on waste and recycling centres can be found at cherwell.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

Cyclist has stolen bike returned thanks to police tweet

AN unsuspecting cyclist unaware his bike had been stolen from his garage only found out when he saw a police appeal on Twitter

Thames Valley Police posted last month about a bike officers had seized in Wantage.

The Force's South and Vale account tweeted on March 20 "We are appealing for the owner of this bike to come forward. It was seized on yesterday (19/3) in the #Wantage area and is suspected to be stolen."

Police tweeted from the same account two days later "GOOD NEWS the owner of the suspected stolen bike seized on Monday in the #Wantage area has been found!

"They didn't realise it was stolen and when they saw the post on social media checked their garage to find out it had been broken into! Please check security"

Deputy police and crime commissioner Matthew Barber, also leader of Vale of White Horse District Council said it was a "great result", adding "This shows the role social media has to play in building stronger communities"

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The first steps onto the property ladder can be a daunting challenge. With house prices continuing to increase, that first property can appear further away than ever for the UK's would-be first-time buyers[1]. This has seen an increasing turn towards the "Bank of Mum and Dad" for financial support. Recent research indicates that the average amount lent to children by their parents for support in the property market is over £18,000, although a significant minority – 41pc – cannot offer this financial support[2].

For over-55 UK homeowners there is a way to use the value of your property to give the "Bank of Mum and Dad" a timely financial boost. The home that you have been responsibly investing in for years could turn out to be your secret later life cash reserve. A lifetime mortgage, the most popular way of releasing equity, could allow you to access your property wealth in a way that is convenient, flexible and secure. With the equity released you could then give your nearest and dearest the leg-up onto the property ladder they may need.

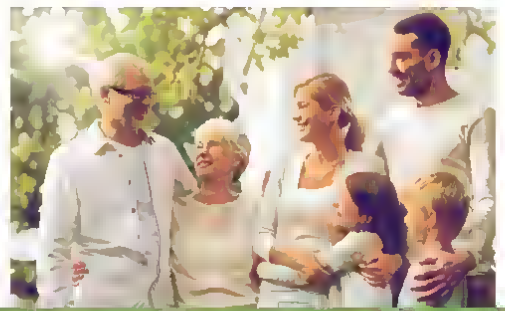
There are a range of lifetime mortgage options available to suit your circumstances. A drawdown lifetime mortgage would give you an immediate tax-free cash lump sum which could be gifted to your children as a contribution towards a house deposit. The remainder of the equity you have released is then kept in an interest free reserve, ready for when you need it. This option can help mitigate the build-up of interest.

By choosing a lifetime mortgage provided by an Equity Release Council approved lender you can take comfort in several important guarantees. You and your partner retain full ownership of your property for the duration of your lives, or until you enter full-time care. A no negative equity guarantee also means that you will never owe more than the value of your home at the end of the plan.

The money you have access to with a lifetime mortgage is yours to spend entirely as you wish. Why not find out today if your house could help boost the "Bank of Mum and Dad", and give your children an invaluable step-up onto the property market?

[1] *The Guardian House prices rise 5% a year in more bad news for would-be buyers 17/10/17*

[2] *Financial Reporter Bank of Mum and Dad lending £18,000 on average...20/10/17*



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Unseen Tolkien work on display

By George Welch

THREE unusual, previously unseen artworks by celebrated author J.R.R. Tolkien will go on public display for the first time at the Bodleian Libraries this summer.

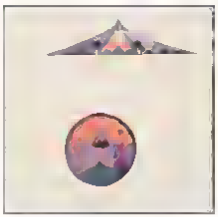
They will be among other unpublished artworks as part of an unprecedented display of the Lord of the Rings author's paintings, drawings and illustrations.

The artefacts displayed will be part of Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth, at the Weston Library in Broad Street, from June 1 to October 28.

The three unseen artworks from the former Oxford University professor, pictured right, going on display are.

■ *Left*, Linquë Surissë (1960s), a Japanese-style drawing with a title in Quenya, an Elvish language developed by Tolkien, which translates as 'grass in the wind'.

■ Parma Mittarion (1957), a design found on an old Merton College meeting agenda containing the Quenya phrase for 'book of enterings' and a page from a sketchbook containing two related abstract paintings titled Here (when you don't want to go from here).



■ *Centre*, Here and There (1914), showing Tolkien was already developing his mythical artistry when an undergraduate at Exeter College.

Other artworks in the exhibition include original watercolours that Tolkien painted while writing drafts of The Hobbit and The Silmarillio, Tolkien's own designs for his books' covering dust-jacket and binding as well as illustrations of bedtime stories he used to tell his children.

Also included at the seminal exhibition will be manuscripts, maps, letters and artefacts from the Bodleian's Tolkien Archive, the Tolkien Collection at Marquette University in the USA and from private collections.

Visit bodleian.ox.ac.uk for more.

InBrief

Where's my Oscar?

A FILM producer thanked rail staff after flying into a 'mad panic' when he left his Oscar on a train.

Gareth Ellis-Unwin, producer of The King's Speech, was travelling on a Great Western Railway service to Didcot Parkway – but left without the briefcase containing his Best Picture award from 2011.

The producer contacted GWR who managed to get onto the train and find the statuette.

German-born Mr Ellis-Unwin, 46, tweeted: "Bit of an evening. Got to say a massive thank you to all the staff @GWRHelp. Awesome customer service..

"A certain producer got on the 17.16 to Didcot with the Oscar but got off said train without.

"Cut to three hours of mad panic and multiple phone calls."

A GWR spokesman said: "We were delighted to be able to re-unite Mr Ellis-Unwin with his Oscar which was left on our train."

Got any questions?

OXFORD Town Hall will host BBC Radio 4's Any Questions? on April 13.

The evening of topical debate will take place from 6.30pm to 9pm in the Main Hall.

Free tickets are available to book and collect from Oxford Town Hall, East Oxford Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Community Centre, and Rose Hill Community Centre on a first come first serve basis.

Support for United fans with free health check up at game

OXFORD United's army of faithful supporters are always in good voice, but are they in good shape?

That is what health bosses at Oxfordshire County Council intend to find out by offering free mini health checks for fans at the game against Oldham Athletic on Saturday.

Health teams will be set up at locations in and around the Kassam Stadium to offer the checks for fans before and after the game.

The checks, normally provided at GP practices, are aimed at identifying the risk from heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke and dementia over the next 10 years. They are free and last just 20-30 minutes.

The examination is available to everyone aged between 40 and 74 without pre-existing conditions.

All participants undergoing a check before half time will be entered into a prize draw and the winner will receive a signed, framed OUFC football shirt presented by the county council's cabinet member for public health, Hilary Hibbert-Biles.

New United managing director Niall McWilliams will lead by example by undergoing a free mini health check beforehand to help promote the initiative.

He said: "It's really important to keep an eye on your health as you get a little bit older.

"There's really no good reason for ducking the chance for a bit of an MOT, especially when we're talking about the next 10 years of your life."

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Nicholls

New campaign shaping up to help you achieve weight loss

By George Welch

TACKLING excessive eating and obesity will be the focus of a new weight loss campaign aiming to promote healthier eating.

The One You scheme will help people tackle the 'calorie creep' in Oxfordshire, with nearly 61 per cent of the county's adults classed as overweight or obese.

The campaign provides those struggling with their weight with a simple tip to help them make healthier choices – 'aim for 400-600-600'.

That is around 400 calories for breakfast, 600 for lunch and 600 for dinner, plus a couple of healthier snacks and drinks in-between.

Adults consume around a quarter of their calories from eating out, with many unsure how many calories they need each day, according to project organisers Achieve Healthy Weightloss Oxfordshire.

Funded by the county council, the scheme will help adults reduce excess calorie consumption and stay within their recommended daily intake – 2,000 for women and 2,500 for men.

Hannah Pearce, Achieve Oxfordshire's head of service, said: "On average we are eating 200-300 calories more than we should every day. Our service is on-hand to advise people through the website, social media, events, or by calling the service."

To launch the campaign last week, Achieve Oxfordshire has made free food-related resources such as food swap tips and recipe suggestions available to help people avoid the extra calories.

Excessive eating can cause unhealthy weight gain and contribute to a range of health issues including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers.

The lead dietician for the project, Karen Davies, said: "The 400-600-600 tip is a guide designed to give people choice and flexibility in their diet, particularly when eating outside the home.

"Using this rough guide means that people can be aware of how many calories they are consuming – especially when grabbing food out and about."

Free and informal outreach events will be held across the county this month with trained advisors giving eating and healthy lifestyle advice.

Visit achieveoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01865 338119 for more information.

InBrief

Police force 'good'

THE police and crime commissioner for Thames Valley Police has claimed his force could afford "over 1,000 extra police officers" if it received the same funding as others in the country.

Anthony Stansfeld said he was "pleased" after a constabulary report graded the force as "good" for its effectiveness.

But the report also warned improvement was required in the force in its investigations.

Mr Stansfeld said: "I believe officers do a very good job keeping our communities safe and reducing crime.

"It is interesting to note that if TVP received the same funding per head of population as Durham Police Force, which is graded as 'outstanding', we could afford over 1,000 extra police officers, and some of the deficiencies that I see could be improved on hugely."

Safety highlighted

MORE than 400 cyclists were stopped during a road safety campaign in Oxford last month, while motorists were told off for not overtaking safely.

Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service targeted drivers who failed to follow Highway Code rules on safe overtaking distances of 1.5metres.

Cyclists seen riding without lights were stopped and given a free set of bicycle lights and educated about safe riding.

Chairman trampled to death by horses

AN estate agency chairman died after being trampled by two of his horses, an inquest heard last week.

James Scott-Lee, 66, was hurt when uncoupling them near his Kirtlington home on October 27.

The horses, who had never been paired together, became startled and kicked the Chancellors estate agent's chairman to the ground before trampling on him.

Coroner Darren Salter heard that all four wheels of the carriage they had been pulling then crushed Mr Scott-Lee as he lay on the ground.

He was conscious when paramedics were called at 10.27am but his condition deteriorated after he was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington.

Arriving at hospital it was revealed Mr Scott-Lee had sustained multiple rib fractures and should be kept in for 24 hours, despite doctors believing his condition was not life threatening.

Further scans showed he had broken vertebrae and doctors later found he had suffered a stroke.

He died the following day on October 28 having been rushed to St George's Hospital, London.

Kevin Merry, an experienced professional horseman, was present at the time and said standard procedure had been followed when uncoupling the horses.

Mr Salter concluded the death was the result of an accident.

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News

Pupils join trial of new vaccine for meningitis

A NEW vaccine being trialled on Oxfordshire children could help in the fight against meningitis

Teenagers at four of the county's schools have been enlisted by Oxford University to trial the new group B meningococcal (MenB) vaccine to test whether it can reduce carriage of the bacteria.

Bacteria at the back of the throat can cause meningitis and the study will look at whether vaccination can stop this happening

There are 2,000 students aged 16-18 taking part in the trial, organised by Oxford Vaccine Group, across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

They will be given the MenB-fHBP (Trumenba) vaccine, while a further 22,000 teenagers around the UK will trial this or 4CMenB (Bexsero)

The National Institute for Health Research is helping to run and fund the Be On The Team trial.

Dr Matthew Snape, of Oxford Vaccine Group, said: "Participants will not only get a vaccine that reduces their risk of meningitis but also help us understand if we can prevent the bug being carried and potentially spread to others."

The Oxfordshire schools involved are Cheney School, Oxford, Tudor Hall School, Banbury, Our Lady's Abingdon and King Alfred's Academy, Wantage.

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Fundraising foam and fun run set to be a real adrenalin rush

By George Welch

OXFORD is set to be awash with thousands of multi-coloured bubbles as a charity fundraiser brings foam and fun to the city for the first time this summer

Helen & Douglas House, our charity of the year, will host Bubble Rush, a 5k frothy fun run with a difference on Sunday, June 10

Whether they walk, run or even toddle the family-friendly route sodden participants will burst through four stations with canons pumping bubbles up to four feet high in Cutteslowe Park.

Mum Vicky Newell, whose daughter Jessica is cared for by the East Oxford hospice is urging families to sign up and support young people with life-limiting conditions

Four year old Jessica has Leigh's Disease a life-shortening neurological condition, and has been visiting Helen & Douglas House for respite stays with her parents Vicky and Keith since September 2014

She was diagnosed at five months old and the family's first visit to Helen House which cares for terminally ill babies and young children, was when she came out of Stoke Mandeville hospital after suddenly falling ill

For Vicky, having a space in which she does not have to worry about Jessica, has been 'really important

She said. "Helen House is the only place I switch off. I can just relax.

"I have this constant guilt that I am not playing or interacting with Jessica enough When I am here I don t have that guilt because I am not trying to also clean the house and work out how to get to the shops

"Staying at Helen House gives Keith and me time to ourselves."

She added. "Helen & Douglas need to raise money to ensure families like ours can receive the care and support we need for Jessica.

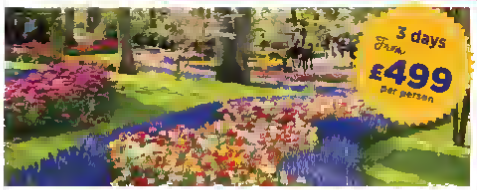
"You can help by taking part in their brilliant new Bubble Rush event to raise money for this wonderful charity helping local children like Jessica "

Registration for the Bubble Rush opens tomorrow and the first 200 people to sign up will enjoy an early bird discount.

Visit tinyurl.com/ycknqnpu for more information and to sign up for a day of bubbly family fun.

Mum Vicky and dad Kaith with Jessica and one-year-old brother James and below, entries are invitad for the Bubbla Rush

Reader travel



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Get together round the table for Maggie's

CANCER charity Maggie's Oxford is encouraging friends, families and colleagues to hold a fundraising event around their kitchen table

Be it at home or work, April 27 is Maggie s Kitchen Table Day, when supporters are urged to get together for an afternoon tea, supper or book club to have fun and help people with cancer.

The kitchen is the hub of every Maggie s centre and the Oxford one based in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital in East Oxford is no different

It is the place where visitors first head to relax with a cup or tea, chat to others around the table and meet a member of the professional staff who are there to give emotional psychological and financial advice to cancer patients and their families.

Those who take part in kitchen table day are encouraged to share photos on social media using the hashtag #kitchentableday

Centre head Claire Marriott said "I can t wait to see the wonderful events that people come up with to help make Maggie's Kitchen Table Day 2018 a success

"Last year we were so impressed by people's ideas from the traditional coffee morning, right through to soup lunches and Mexican themed dinner parties."

Register for a free fundraising pack at maggiescentres org/kitchentableday

New facility will provide homely environment

A NEW North Oxford care home is nearing completion and prospective residents will be able to have a look around for the first time later this month.

After 70 years in its current Victorian building on Banbury Road, Fairfield care home is moving in a state-of-the art purpose-built facility next door

Expected to open in June, it will have 40 en suite bedrooms, some of which are suitable for couples.

The old home will be converted into accommodation for about 60 students.

A spokesperson said the building "has been designed with all the facilities required to be able to provide a homely environment for its elderly residents with 24-hour residential and respite care"

The new care home on Banbury Road will be open in June

Fairfield is holding two open days on April 21 and May 2 for prospective residents and their families to see inside the home

Contact care@fairfieldhome.co.uk to register interest in attending an open day and/or visit fairfieldhome co uk for more information.

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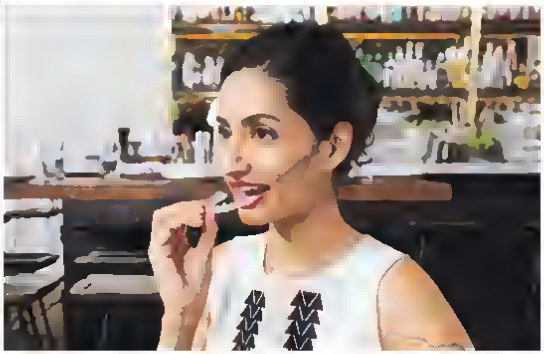

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Out & About

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Out Abo

A dream of a show for music fans

By Josh Cox

RADIO 2 Legend OBE decorated and South Oxfordshire resident, Bob Harris heads to Didcot's Cornerstone this month in a show that promises to be fascinating, intimate and spontaneous.

Harris will be engaging in deep conversation and reliving stories and songs with legendary singer/ song writer Kimmie Rhodes.

The pair will be reflecting on Kimmie's rich musical history, the sounds of Austin and the legacy of Texan song-writing, in celebration of the release of Radio Dreams, her memoir and the companion audio CD produced by 'Whispering' Bob Harris.

The show is the result of the February release of Radio Dreams, which invites readers into the unique and private world of platinum-selling songwriter and recording artist Rhodes and her deceased soul mate beloved radio personality Joe Gracey Jr.

Weaving her own poetic prose with wry and witty words from his journals, Rhodes tells the fascinating story of their three decades together. She also tells tales of the couple's times with Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Jack Clement, Emmylou Harris, and other famous and infamous characters that have helped make American music history before facing Gracey's final cancer battle.

Through triumph and tragedy, grief and gratitude, her memoirs express the extraordinary life and inspiring love they shared.

Described by Radio Times as "one of the greats of British contemporary music broadcasting and an independent champion of great music" Harris has been at the centre of the British music industry for nearly 40 years.

When being awarded an OBE for his services to music broadcasting Harris said: "I've always loved what I do so it's an added bonus to be recognised for something you love. I love music and I'm really just at the heart of what I love."

Radio Dreams is on Tuesday April 24 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £17, with discounts available for concessions and members. To book tickets call the box office on 01235 515144 or visit cornerstone.arts.org

On stage

Not just awesome...

Fawesome are bringing a wealth of rock and roll covers to O'Neill's in Oxford in a free gig next Friday from 9pm.

Fawesome are a well established four-piece rock band from the High Wycombe area composed of seasoned and professional musicians with a passion for putting on a great show.

In the dog house

Rock and blues band DogHouse will be gigging at The Chequers Headington Quarry in Oxford on Saturday next week.

This is the first time for DogHouse at The Chequers, expect hits from ZZ Top, Quaon, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Free, Blondie and more.

The band will kick off at 9pm with free entry.

Your generation?

The Red Lion in Drayton will host local band Radio Generation on Saturday next week.

Former headliners at Towersey Fringe Festival, the band have grown to be much loved regulars around the Oxford area, playing everything from The Knack to Iggy Pop.

The free gig is from 9pm to midnight.

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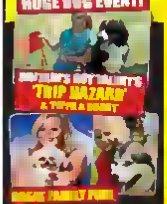

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Truly spell-binding show

By Samantha McGregor

THERE S still time to see award-winning Oxford based Musical Youth Company s latest show Godspell

The rock opera is staged at the Oxford Playhouse and runs until Saturday

Based on the Gospel of St Matthew with music by three-time Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz, of Wicked fame this is a compelling tale of friendship loyalty and love

This high-spirited show dramatises the teachings and last days of Jesus in a variety of musical styles including rock n roll R&B and ragtime and features hit songs including Day by Day Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord By My Side Save The People and All For The Best.

Godspell took the theatre world by storm when it opened to rave reviews in 1971 and has since become a firm favourite with musical lovers

The Musical Youth Company of Oxford s resident director and choreographer Gny Bigg and musical director Jnlie Todd have worked closely with the company s cast of 55 performers to bnng local audiences a fresh take on a modern classic

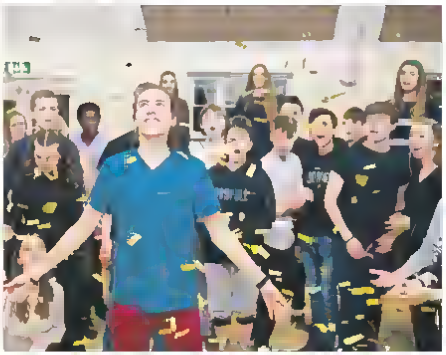
Guy said "The rehearsal process has been a fantastically collaborative experience and one in which we have worked hard lo reimagine the original stage-directions to create something nnique and unforgettable

"As usnal MYCO s professionalism enthusiasm and willingness to explore new ideas has helped us to reach new heights of creativity and standards of performance."

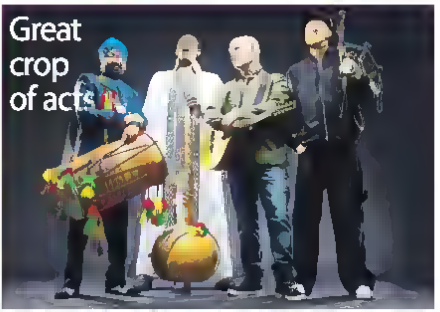
MYCO is a teenage musical theatre gronp based in Oxford with more than 50 members from around the county

They perform one major West End/Broadway show per year plus a nnmber of concerts This October they celebrate their 30th anniversary For more information go to myco org.uk

Tickets for Godspell at Oxford Playheuse start at £10 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or at oxfordplayhouse com



Zakkai Gonelly stars as Jesus, pictured here in rehearsals for Godspell with the cast from the Musical Youth Company of Oxford
Picture: Hannah Veale



Afro Celt Sonnd System will take to the stage on Saturday
Pictnre: Tom Oldham

THE final line-up for this year's Fairport s Cropredy Convention 2018 has been unveiled.

Taking place over three days – August 9 10 and 11 at Cropredy near Banbury, the festival will be opened by host band Fa rport Convention who will play a short welcome set.

Joining Fairport on Fnday will be Americana guitar duo Smith & Brewer, Police Dog Hogan deliver their own brand of country-tinged rock, and folkrockers Oysterband.

Thursday s headliner is Brian Wilson who will perform the legendary Beach Boys album Pet Sounds

On Fr day Cropredy welcomes the BBC Young Folk Award winner Mid night Skyracer The Travelling Band, Cregan & Co and Mercury-nominee Kate Rusby makes her Cropredy debut before Friday s headline act Levellers take to the stage.

Saturday sees BAFTA nominee Richard Dlgance getting the day off to a flying start

There will also be sets from Eric Sedge and The Bar-Steward Sons of Val Doonican Will Varlay Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys and Afro Celt Sound System, who fuse traditional Insh and West African music They will be followed by a solo set from Scottish singer-songwriter Al Stewart before Fairport Convention and guests take the stage for their traditional two-hour-plus Saturday headline show

For more information or tickets view fairportconvention.com

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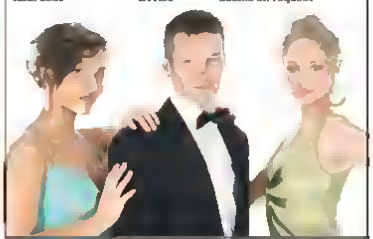

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Don't go to the basement

By Josh Cox

LETTICE Douffet may be a middle-aged oddball but a visit to her basement flat would shock even the toughest of characters.

There they would find a guillotine, execution axe and chopping block, for Miss Douffet has unusual hobbies: she replays the deaths of great historical figures and shes roped in her new friend, Lotte Schoen to help.

Slnodun Players production of Peter Schaffer's Lettice and Lovage runs at The Corn Exchange in Wallingford from April 11 to 14.

The play is rooted with dark humour but is a hilarious whistle stop tour through history as this unlikely pair take on the deaths of Marie Antoinette, Charles I and a host of others to satisfy their need for acting and possibly extreme violence.

Erica Harley stars as Lettice and Jay Berry as Lotte Schoen, who take the lion's share of the play which moves from a stately home to a civil service office and finally to the basement of doom itself.

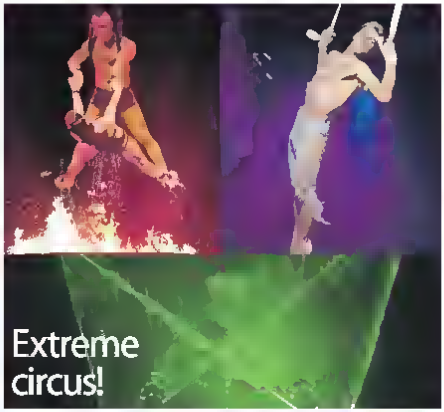
Director Julie Utley said: "Lettice is an eccentric who hates the restrictions of being a stately home guide, so she decides to apply her imagination to her accounts to bring them to life. These become so vivid and colourful that she falls foul of the administrators."

In rehearsal for Lettice and Lovage at The Corn Exchange

Julie added: "It's a really very very funny play with some terrific lines and ideas. It is also a bit of an education if you want it, but at its heart it's about an unlikely friendship between a wildly eccentric woman and her dull civil servant friend.

"One thing comes out at it: how can we ever look at those National Trust house guides again without wondering what lies beneath the volunteer badge?"

Tickets cost £10. For more information or to book, call the box office on 01491 82500, or head over to comexchange.org.



This year marks the 250th anniversary of The Netherlands' National Circus and as part of the celebration, a new show is on tour across the UK.

The show contains two hours of top class entertainment from inside the climate-controlled theatre style big top.

Acts include the Duo Extreme, who can be seen flying though the air as they showcase their acrobatic skills as aerial performers. In their unique act another dimension is added as they perform suspended over a tank filled with water. At times they will be lowered or even dropped into the water and can be seen dancing under water in a fashion similar to synchronised swimming before being elevated once again up in the air to continue with the routine at daredevil heights.

As well as Duo Extreme, you can expect family-friendly entertainment by an international cast of more than 30 performers.

The circus will be coming to Edmonds Park in Didcot from April 18 to 23.

The box office is open on site from 10am to 8pm daily, however discounted tickets are available online from thenetherlandscircus.com.

Being a Host Family is a GREAT thing to do

At Bright World our Host families are as happy as our students and their parents

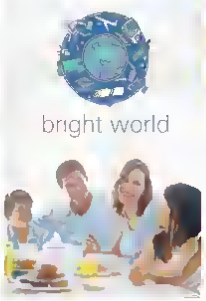
More international students join independent boarding schools in the UK year on year and Oxford remains one of the most sought after destinations. Bright World has offered guardianship to students across the UK since 2000 and is fully AEGIS accredited which means our safeguarding standards are of a high level and constantly being monitored. Finding host families for our students is an important part of our job and with the increase in demand we need more in Oxford.

Finding Hosts with the Most

Having made the long journey from their home country, international students often only go back home during the long holidays. This means that when their boarding houses close for short weekends and half term weeks, our students need somewhere to stay. These bright, brave and talented children have had to cope with leaving their families to embark on the challenge of a lifetime and so when their holidays come they really need to feel comfortable and yearn for a host family who will take them in and offer them a true home from home.

A win-win situation for all

Not only do our host families get a huge amount of satisfaction from seeing their student settle down and feel comfortable in their homes, they find the experience very good for their own children. Of course, although money is not the first incentive for our host families, they do benefit from a nightly rate and therefore it does create a valuable extra income for all the family. To find out more about becoming a host family for Bright World please email lindsay@brightworld.co.uk



FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity mock out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from - constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality value, longevity, aesthetic design - this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view Colourfence is the Rolls Royce of fencing - just without the exclusive price tag. What's more - it's guaranteed to stay in place at up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up.

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - details available on request

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences. Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientifically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be efficiently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171

COLOURFENCE

the revolutionary low-maintenance system

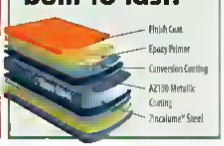
01865 582 171

colourfence.co.uk

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
- Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

Colourfence is built to last!



NO PRESSURE PROMISE

To reassure customers that our free no-obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

COLOUR FENCE

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Competition

WIN tickets to The Netherlands National Circus in Didcot

This year marks the 250th Birthday of Circus and you have the chance to celebrate that when the Netherlands National Circus comes to Edmonds Park, Didcot from Weds 18th April to Sun 22rd April.

Whatever else you have planned you don t miss the chance of seeing 2 hours of spectacular family entertainment brought to you by an internatsonal cast of over 30 performers.

The cast includes the not to be missed Duo Extreme who will be seen flying though the air inside the Big Top as they showcase their skills as aerial performers. In this unique act another dimension is added as they perform suspended over a tank filled with water, at times they will be lowered or even dropped into the water and can be seen dancing under water in a fashion similar to synchronised swimming before being elevated once again up in the air to continue with the routine at daredevil heights Duo Extreme have just been awarded the first prize in a festival of circus artistes that took place last December and January in Germany They beat some very tough competition to this prestigious award and top a list of best acts

"The Netherlands National Circus are really excited to be able to bring our brand new show to UK for the first time and we hope it will be well received as we pride ourselves on producing high quality affordable family entertainment There will be something for everyone as we can guarantee laughs, thrills suspense and lots of action. It is important to remember that in a world full of digital and virtual entertainment with computer games and the internet, nothing can ever beat bringing the whole family together to witness the magic of a live performance. Several of our acts touring with us in 2018 will be making their UK debut so we will have many new and exciting feats that have never before been seen in this country" For more information and to book tickets visit www thenetherlandscircus.com

Closing date Thursday, April 12, 2018

Win tickets!

We have 15 family tickets to this great event that will admit 2 adults and up to 3 children (2 to 12 years) each! The tickets are for front circle seats to any performance any day during the Circus stay and to be in with a chance winning all you have to do is answer the following simple question.

○ Where in Didcot will The Netherlands National Circus be performing?

To enter this competition just email your answer to:

competitions@theoxfordpaper.co.uk

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JOHN DEERE R43RS

- Rear striping roller
- 43cm / 17" cutting width
- 65Ltr collector bag

0% INTEREST

Selling price £766

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JOHN DEERE X354

- 107cm / 42" cutting width
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- Four wheel steering

0% INTEREST

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£390 PER MONTH

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Tel. 01488 648552

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Composite Wood Garden Rooms

Call **0123S 430770** for your free estimate

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Enjoy a huge range of styles with our Block Paved driveways

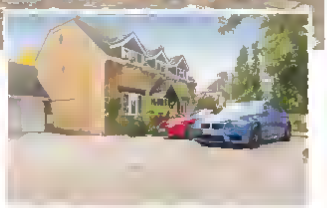
Over the last 30 years block paving has become the most popular choice for driveways and paths, due to its durability and the huge range of styles and materials available.

We offer three kinds of block in two thicknesses and 14 colours, and the patterns we can create are almost infinite – so you have a great deal of choice! But don't worry – our designers will work closely with you to create the perfect drive for your home.

Why choose our driveway range? Permeable by nature and a wide variety of sizes, colours and shapes

At New Driveway Commercial we offer solutions for the following clients

- Schools and colleges
- Architects
- Project managers
- Church and cathedrals
- Insurance companies
- Building companies
- Business owners/ company directors
- Local authorities
- Councils
- Film companies



Why Composite Wood?

- Extremely Durable
- Contemporary design
- Low maintenance
- Never needs painting – ever
- Eco-friendly
- Portable – keep it if you move

Why Choose Us?

- 25 year Warranty
- Interest free credit
- Free laminate flooring
- Fast response
- No pushy salesmen

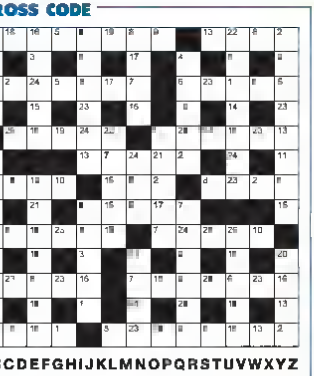
A home office, playroom, bar or place to relax and unwind; what will you use your Composite Wood Garden Room for?

Composite wood garden rooms feature highly insulated walls and a warm weatherproof roof for year-round protection from the elements. Designed as a self contained building, our Garden Rooms can be ordered with lighting, heating and electrics included and comes in 5 different sizes, with 4 different colours of Composite Wood to choose from.

puzzle drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					I							S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
									N			

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the central grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and central grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

ART INDEED, MIRANDA

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically

Quiz Challenge

1. **With which country does Italy share its longest border?**
2. **In the title of the seventh and final Adnan Mole diary, which part of the male human body is mentioned?**
3. **Which British pop group had a UK No 1 hit single in 1966 with the Lennon and McCartney track Michelle?**
4. **The Sam Maguire Cup is associated with which sport?**
5. **Who was the first astronaut to go into space twice?**
6. **Which character did Matthew Perry play in the long-running TV series Friends?**
7. **The title character in the TV crime drama series Luther is played by which British actor?**
8. **"Give me a home where the buffalo roam, where the deer and the antelope play" are lines from which cowboy song?**
9. **Tossed Salads and Scrambled Eggs is theme song for which US TV sitcom?**
10. **Grafton Street and Henry Street are two principal shopping areas in which city?**

NONAGRAM

L	E	T
I	B	M
E	A	T

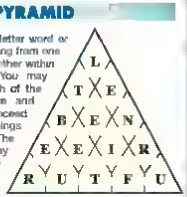
How many words of four letters or more can you make from the Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
19 Good, 23 Very Good, 27 Excellent.

Any word found in first Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singulars verbs; hyphenated/under contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; wanted spellings of first name word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber

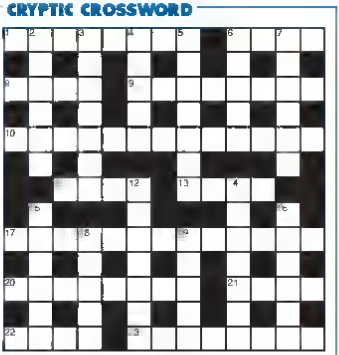


FIVE ALIVE

CH	EL	FA	IT	MY
HA		BI		AO
AS	LT	AE	RA	KM
TI		FN		EB
RE	HA	DT	IE	OD

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Landing of the and of the flight (8)
6. Quote it in church (4)
8. Fine linen cut regularly in summer (4)
9. In so far as Munich was redeveloped (8)
10. Exactly what is needed to gain admission (4,3,6)
11. A cat has a very small part (4)
13. Tire round using a mechanical procedure (4)
17. Like Cain perhaps one set previously convicted (5,8)
20. Vagrant was ahead but was crushed underfoot (8)
21. Pity the girl (4)
22. Vegetable one is poor to be without (4)
23. Line of dirt, it marked change (8)

DOWN

2. Does it commemorate tooth decay? (6)
3. Youngster having a very small drink (4,3)
4. In the open air I should find the terrier (5)
5. Dash to pieces with wild threats (7)
6. Humorous commanding officer has Frenchman in charge (5)
7. Made the correct marking (6)
12. Illuminated, having worked outside normal hours? (7)
14. Mutt ran off in a fit of temper (7)
15. Hit about right to make a hole in (6)
16. Arouse wild tribes (5)
18. Boy wrong about doctor (5)
19. Last strength and disappeared (5)

SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

2	6		8	5		9	7	
	5	8	4				6	3
		7		6				
6	9	2		3		7		
	4		6				9	
				9		3	8	
				4	1			
							4	
			8			6	3	9

				5	1	7		
				2		6		5
			3			6	1	
				9	3			
			4		6			
				5		8	7	3
			8	4			9	
7			3					5
						9	3	6

EQUALISER

6 6
3 ◯ 2 ◯ 3
2 2
6 ◯ 2 ◯ 3
1 2

Place the four signs (add subtract, multiply divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

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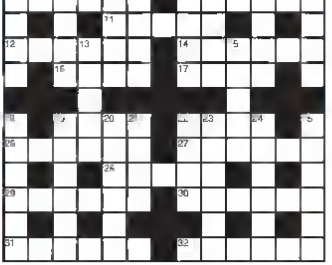
QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Embrace (8)
4 Wallet (6)
6. Redyguard (6)
10. Recluse (6)
11 British port (5)
12. Vocalist (6)
14 Appending (6)
16. Sour (4)
17 Amphibian (4)
19 Smack (4)
22. Legal action (4)
26. Stick (6)
27 Make beloved (8)
28. Concise (5)
29. TV comedy show (init.) (6)
30. Spanish dive slam (5)
31 Account (8)
32. Decay in timber (3,3)

DOWN

1 Dairy fare (8)
2 Respectable (6)
3. Pantry (6)
5. Exaggerate (6)
6. Transparent (8)
7 Senility (6)
8. Legal wrong (4)
10. Warmth (4)
13. End of a meal (5)
15. Patron saint of Wales (5)
16. German emperor (8)
18. Cornfloret (6,2)
20. Power (6)
21 Hair treatment (init.) (4)
22. Once (4)
23. Not just (6)
24 Bank employee (8)
25. Downright (6)

SOLUTIONS

GLUE CHALLENGE: 1 Switzerland, 2 Pneumatic, 3 Alaskan Malamute, 4 Gaelic football, 5 Virgil, 6 Gaul, 7 Gaston, 8 Cantaloupe Island, 9 Alaska, 10 Mexico, 11 Pyrenees, 12 Dublin.

CHESS CODE

T	G	K	E	Y	C	X	L	M	I	H	A	R	V	T	Z	S	D	Q	O	N	W	J	U	P	V

EASY SUDOKU

2	6	1	8	5	3	9	7	4
7	5	8	4	2	1	3	6	9
4	3	9	6	7	8	5	2	1
6	9	2	5	3	4	7	1	8
1	4	5	7	6	9	2	8	3
3	8	7	2	1	5	6	4	9
9	2	6	3	4	7	8	5	1
8	1	4	9	8	2	1	3	7
5	7	3	1	9	6	4	9	2

HARD SUDOKU

9	4	3	2	8	5	1	7	6
6	7	1	9	4	3	5	8	2
5	8	2	7	1	6	3	4	9
3	2	4	5	6	1	8	9	7
1	9	6	3	7	8	4	2	5
8	5	7	4	9	2	6	1	3
4	6	8	1	3	9	7	5	2
7	3	9	8	2	4	9	6	1
2	1	5	6	5	7	2	3	8

MAGIC SQUARE: ART / RAIN / TIER / DEAN

WORD PYRAMID: Furniture beetle, Cockroaches from top left: scientific, gold, cheese, mandibles, Tinted, ai

EQUALISER

6	×	6	=	3	6	6	3	6
÷		÷		+		+		+
3	+	2	=	5	2	2	4	2
+		+		+		+		+
6	+	2	=	8	6	2	3	6
=		=		=		=		=
1	2	2		1	2	2		2

QUICK CROSSWORD:
Across — 1 Embrace, 4 Wallet, 6 Redyguard, 10 Recluse, 11 Truro, 12 Singer, 14 Appending, 16 Sour, 17 Toad, 19 Slap, 22 Sue, 26 Adhere, 27 Endear, 28 Short, 29 Sitcom, 30 Paella, 31 Report, 32 Dry rot.
Down — 1 Dresser, 2 Decent, 3 Larder, 5 Overact, 6 Invisible, 7 Senility, 8 Tort, 13 Heist, 15 Dafydd, 16 Satan, 18 Lord, 20 Power, 21 Hair, 22 Sole, 23 Merely, 24 Teller, 25 Sense.

NONAGRAM:
Dawn – Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarn – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awaren – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarne – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarned – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarden – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awardent – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awardent – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
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FIVE ALIVE:
Awarn – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awaren – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarne – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarned – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awarden – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awardent – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awardent – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awardent – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren
Awardent – Award, Drawn, Lawn, Wand, Wend, Wind, Wine, Wing, Wire, Wren

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+ Pauli

Sat 24th Mar • 6.30pm
Turin Brakes

Fri 30th Mar • 7.00pm
Super Hans

Fri 30th Mar • 11.00pm
White Magic Birthday Bash
Ft. Seani B, Allan Brando, Jah Will, 2Xclusive, Party Shot Movement

Sun 8th Apr • 7.00pm
3 Generations of Ska
+ Stranger Cole + Neville Staple Band
+ Sugary Staple + The AC30s + The Inflatables

Mon 9th Apr • 7.00pm
Dirty Sanchez
15 years of Dirty Sanchez live
feat. Lee Dainton & Matthew Pritchard

Tue 10th Apr • 6.30pm
The Blockheads
+ Chasing Daylight

Sat 14th Apr • 11.00pm
Darkzy UK Tour

Mon 16th Apr • 7.00pm
Little Comets

Wed 18th Apr • 7.30pm
Cabbage

Thur 19th Apr • 7.30pm
The White Buffalo
+ Alice Drinks The Kool-Aid

Fri 20th Apr • 6.30pm
Rejjie Snow
+ Eblast

Sat 21st Apr • 6.30pm
Isaac Gracie

Sun 22nd Apr • 7.30pm
MC Lars
+ Koo Koo Kanga Roo

Thu 26th Apr • 7.00pm
Will Heard

Thur 26th • 7.00pm
Don Broco

Fri 27th Apr • 6.30pm
Heather Small - The voice of M People

Sat 28th Apr • 6.30pm
UK Foo Fighers - Banging On the Ceiling Tour

Wed 2nd May • 6.30pm
Ocean Wisdom

Thur 3rd May • 7.00pm
Lower Than Atlantis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Rhys Lewis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Wilko Johnson
+ Hugh Cornwell Band

Fri 4th May • 11.00pm
Mighty Crown Far East Rulers

Sat 5th May • SOLD OUT • 6.00pm
Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls

Sun 6th May • 7.00pm
Mallory Knox

Mon 7th May • 7.00pm
The Bluetones
+ The Velvet Hands

Thur 10th May • 7.00pm
DMA's

Fri 11th May • 6.30pm
Marmozets

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Cold Black & Death Remains

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Seether

Wed 16th May • 6.30pm
Barrence Whitfield & The Savages

Wed 23rd May • 6.30pm
Coco and the Butterfields

Sun 27th May • 6.30pm
Cocaine Piss

Fri 1st Jun • 7.00pm
Carcer City

Sat 2nd Jun • 7.00pm
OMYO

Thu 7th Jun • 7.00pm
The Wedding Present
"Tommy" 30th Anniversary Tour

Sat 9th Jun • 7.00pm
A Band Called Malice
The Definitive Tribute to The Jam

Thur 14th Jun • 7.00pm
Sona Jobarteh

Fri 15th Jun • 6.30pm
Nick Heyward
+ Pugwash

Fri 22nd Jun • 7.00pm
Zodiac Reunion Party
Disques Vogo, Sky Larkin, Transformation, Osprey

Fri 14th Sep • 6.00pm
Molotov Jukebox

Sat 22nd Sep • 6.30pm
Dressed To Kill - A Tribute To KISS
+ Electric Circus (A Tribute to W.A.S.P)

Sat 6th Oct • 6.30pm
The Smyths - Unite and Take Over Tour 2018

Fri 12th Oct • 6.30pm
Antarctic Monkeys

Sat 13th Oct • 6.30pm
Britpop Boys

Thu 18th Oct • 7.00pm
The Daniel Wakeford Experience

Sat 27th Oct • 6.30pm
Guns 2 Roses

Sat 17th Nov • 6.30pm
Definitely Mightbe
Oasis tribute

Tue 27th Nov • 7.00pm
Shame

Fri 7th Oct • 6.30pm
Pearl Jam UK

Sun 2nd Dec • 7.00pm
Bjorn Again

Sat 22nd Dec • 6.30pm
Faith – The George Michael Legacy

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Saturday April 7

TOP TV

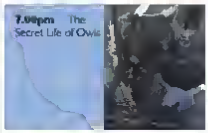
BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV

Channel 4

Channel 5



MORNING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
10.00am	Commonwealth Games 2018	10.30am	Robot Wars	6.30am	Thunderbirds are Go	7.40am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9.30am	Digby Dragon
		11.00am	Homes Under the Hammer	9.05am	Adventure Time	9.05am	Frasier	9.45am	Peppa Pig
				9.25am	ITV News	10.35am	The Big Bang Theory	9.55am	Peppa Pig
				9.30am	Saturday Morning with James Martin	11.05am	The Big Bang Theory	10.00am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
				11.25am	Who's Doing the Dishes?	11.35am	The Big Bang Theory	10.35am	The Gadget Show
								11.30am	Traffic Cops

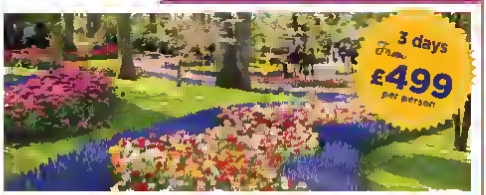
AFTERNOON

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
12.30pm	Football Focus	12.00pm	Commonwealth Games 2018	12.20pm	The Harbour	12.00pm	The Simpsons	12.30pm	Traffic Cops
1.00pm	BBC News	2.15pm	MasterChef	12.50pm	ITV Lunchtime News	12.20pm	The Simpsons	1.30pm	Live Aviva Premiership Rugby: Bath v Leicester
1.10pm	Golf	2.45pm	MasterChef	1.00pm	Midsomer Murders	1.00pm	Formula 1	4.15pm	Can I Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2.10pm	Commonwealth Games 2018	3.45pm	Escape to the Country	3.00pm	Tenable	2.30pm	F1: Grand Prix	5.16pm	Can I Pay? We'll Take it Away!
4.30pm	Final Score	4.15pm	Money for Nothing	4.00pm	Tipping Point	2.55pm	Formula 1		
5.10pm	A Question of Sport	5.00pm	Big Cats	5.00pm	The Chase	5.45pm	Car S.O.S		
5.40pm	Dowtielugs								

EVENING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
6.00pm	Ready or Not	6.00pm	Tadley at the Games	6.00pm	ITV Evening News	6.40pm	Channel 4 News	6.05pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
6.30pm	BBC News	7.30pm	Golf	6.15pm	ITV News London	7.00pm	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	7.00pm	The Secret Life of Owls
6.40pm	Regional News and Weather	12.00am	Having You	6.30pm	You've Been Framed!			8.00pm	Everest: World's Greatest Mountain
6.50pm	Pointless	1.30am	Civilisations	7.00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away	6.00pm	Britain's Most Historic Towns	6.55pm	5 News Weekend
7.40pm	Who Dares Wins	2.30am	Weather for the Week Ahead	6.30pm	The Voice UK: Live Final	9.00pm	Legend	9.00pm	Football on 5
8.20pm	Casualty	2.35am	BBC News	10.10pm	ITV News	11.30pm	Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter	10.00pm	Football on 5
9.10pm	Troy: Fall of a City	6.00am	Commonwealth Games 2018	10.35pm	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows	1.30am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	10.30pm	20 Moments That Rocked the '90s
10.10pm	BBC News			12.40am	Jackpot247	2.20am	Hollyoaks Omnibus	12.00am	Super Casino
10.30pm	Match of the Day			3.00am	Babushka	4.30am	Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free	3.10am	The Other Guys
11.55pm	Commonwealth Games 2018			3.30am	ITV Nightscreen	4.45am	Building the Dream	4.55am	Great Scientists
4.00am	Commonwealth Games 2018			4.00am	Sneity	5.40am	Streetmate	5.20am	Wildlife SOS
6.00am	Breakfast			6.10am	Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids	6.10am	Race of Champions 2018	5.30am	Access

Reader travel



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Sunday April 8

BBC 1

MORNING

7.30am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Commonwealth Games 2018

AFTERNOON

1.30pm BBC News
1.40pm Commonwealth Games 2018
4.30pm Songs of Praise
5.05pm Celebrity Mastermind
5.30pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

EVENING

6.00pm The Big Farming Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm The Generation Game
9.00pm Ordeal by Innocence
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm Commonwealth Games 2018
4.00am Commonwealth Games 2018
4.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

MORNING

9.00am Commonwealth Games 2018
11.00am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites

AFTERNOON

12.30pm MasterChef
1.30pm MasterChef
2.00pm The Secret Helpers
3.00pm Emma
5.00pm Today at the Games

EVENING

8.30pm Golf
12.00am The Rookie
2.00am Countryfile
2.55am Holby City
3.55am Weather for the Week Ahead
4.00am BBC News
6.00am Commonwealth Games 2018

ITV

MORNING

8.30am Spy School
9.05am Adventure Time
9.35am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am The Voice UK Live Final
11.40am Change Your Tune

AFTERNOON

12.40pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away
2.30pm Britain's Brightest Family
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm You've Been Framed!
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.45pm ITV News London
5.00pm Tipping Point

EVENING

8.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
7.00pm Change Your Tune
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm The Good Karma Hospital
10.00pm ITV News
10.20pm The Oliver Awards 2018
12.15am 100 Year Old Driving School
12.40am Marcella
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am British Superbike Championship Highlights
3.30am ITV Nightscreen
5.55am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Good Morning Britain

Channel 4

MORNING

7.05am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.25am Frasier
9.00am Frasier
9.00am Sunday Brunch

AFTERNOON

12.40pm The Simpsons
1.15pm The Simpsons
1.45pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
3.00pm Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live Build Up
3.45pm Formula 1
8.20pm Formula 1

EVENING

6.45pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Escape to the Chateau
8.00pm Jesus' Female Disciples: The New Evidence
9.00pm Homeland
10.00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11.00pm Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
1.25am Shubh Mangal Saavdhan
3.15am KOTV Rowing Weekly
3.45am Mekki I the Grid
4.10am Building the Dream
5.10am Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free

Channel 5

MORNING

9.00am Shimmer and Shine
9.15am Digby Dragon
9.35am Peppa Pig
9.40am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.15am Football on 5
11.45am Traffic Cops

AFTERNOON

12.45pm Oliver!
3.35pm The Deep End of the Ocean
4.35pm 5 News
4.40pm The Deep End of the Ocean
5.45pm Marley and Me

EVENING

8.45pm 5 News
8.50pm Marley and Me
8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm When Live News Goes Horribly Wrong
11.50pm Football on 5 The Checkatrade Trophy
12.45am Britain's Greatest Bridges
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am Resident Evil: Afterlife
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Great Scenbate
5.35am Wildlife SOS

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Well, this week I have the funky little i10 to test, and I have to say that Hyundai has gone all out with this new and improved version, and I for one, am really impressed by its remarkable ability to work just as well in the city as it does out on the twisty country roads.

Power & efficiency

My test car was fitted with a 4 cylinder 1.25-litre 16-valve DOHC petrol engine that has 87PS and 121Nm of torque @ 4000rpm and a top speed of around 109mph. You can also opt for the 66PS 1.0-litre, 3 cylinder petrol, which will reach a max speed of 97mph, which if I'm honest, is just as much fun to use as the more powerful 4 cylinder version.

The 87PS engine is actually very refined, and the 66PS is just as good in my opinion, so deciding on which engine to choose is really just a matter of personal choice. You also get a decent five-speed manual gearbox which is slick and feels well in sync with the engine. Fuel economy was also very good and under normal driving conditions, I managed to achieve a figure of around 50 plus mpg (combined) without breaking a sweat.

On the road

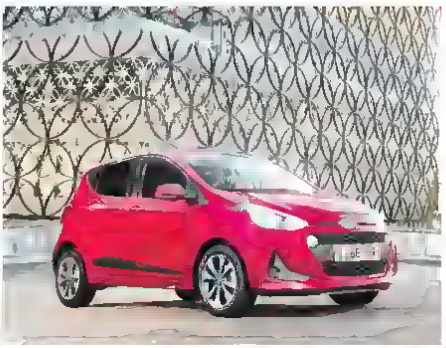
I will keep it simple here: the little i10 is the perfect car to scoot about in – because it is poised, easy to park and you will always have a little smile on your face whenever you are out and about. Ok, it does feel a little firm but that is all the fun of the i10.

Plus the steering is also direct and the grip levels are good, which means the i10 feels tight and taut into the corners. I'm going to say that Hyundai has done a pretty good job of getting the whole package to work together and I have no issues in saying that it performs well out on the open road. In fact, it has been a while since I have driven any small car that has felt so connected to the road.

Design & technology

On the outside the i10 looks relatively elegant but it does have a basic look about it on the inside. But saying that, the little i10 is priced very well for its market, so I didn't expect it to be festooned with a carbon fibre dashboard or leather seating.

As I said earlier it does look a touch basic on the inside but you do get quite a lot of standard equipment on the Premium SE trim, which includes DAB digital radio, sporty 15" alloy wheels, air conditioning – climate control, rear parking sensors, Bluetooth connectivity touchscreen satellite navigation 7" + Android Auto + Apple Carplay, airbags (front, front side & curtain airbags), ABS with ESP, BAS (Brake Assist System), HAC (Hill-start Assist Control), TPMS (Tyre Pressure Monitoring System) and VSM (Vehicle Stability Management).



To sum up

The i10 is a decent car that's packed full of additional extras for very little money. If you are thinking of buying one then I would test both the 66PS and the 87ps version before you decide – although both in my book are worthy of 5 stars if I'm being totally honest.

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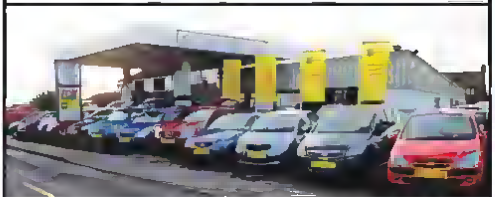

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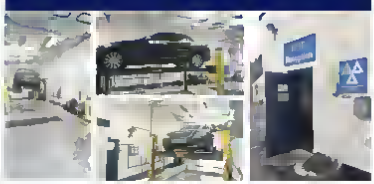

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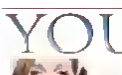

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'Our car is not a Ferrari replica'

By George Welch

F1 - Haas

TEAM principal Gunther Steiner has vehemently denied that the 2018 Haas car is a clone of last year's Ferrari, insisting the competitiveness of their challenger is credit to our team.

McLaren's Fernando Alonso labelled the VF18 as a "Ferrari replica" while Force India technical chief Otmar Szafnauer described the car's development on last year as "magic".

The Banbury-based side raised some eyebrows during testing and impressed again in the Formula 1 season opener in Australia last month, before a double retirement blew the American owned team's hopes of a remarkable 22 points.

But Steiner, speaking ahead of Sunday's Bahrain GP, is adamant his team are playing by the rules.

Haas team principal Gunther Steiner has hit back at the claims about the 2018 car Picture: Haas F1

He said: "I'm more than confident we are not doing anything wrong.

"I'm perfectly fine with how we do business. We design our own aero, as per the regulations, and yes, we use mechanical parts from Ferrari, but everybody's known that for the past two years.

"We are well above board, and happy to be where we are."

However, there are murmurs among the teams questioning how Haas, whose car has a striking resemblance to Ferrari's racer last year, could develop such a car in only their third year.

"Everybody is allowed to have an opinion. Some people have an opinion, which I think is based on no facts," Steiner added.

"It does not have a lot of value to me.

"I think the whole of Haas F1 team can be proud of the work done between last year and over the winter to produce the VF18 and get it into its competitive condition. It's merit to them. They can be proud."

Meanwhile, driver Romain Grosjean has been praised after being pictured consoling the mechanic that messed up his pit stop in Melbourne.

The Frenchman said: "Everything is pushed to its maximum – the driving, the engineering and the pit stops. Mistakes can happen. We're a team, and I was happy to be there for my boys, as I know they're happy to be there for me when I need them to be."

Frilford Heath celebrates its efforts

Club raises a hole lot of cash

Golf

FUNDRAISERS from Frilford Heath golf club donated more than £23,000 to charity following a record-breaking year.

The 2017 Frilford Heath Captain Peter Creasy and Lady Captain Iona Smith raised a staggering £23,110.97 between them for their respective charities.

Peter received £14,772.55 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, which helps make a difference for children living with the condition.

The Mulberry Bush School, a specialist school for severely traumatised primary aged children, will receive £8,338.42 following Iona's fundraising efforts.

Peter said: "This is the most ever to be raised in a year from both the men's and ladies' sections of the club.

"The club and our members have been hugely supportive in helping us to reach the grand total."

Peter added that his favourite fundraiser was a 'nearest the pin' competition where members had "a chance of winning a top of the range Maserati for a long weekend".

Iona said: "Having been a teacher myself I wanted to find a local charity involved in education.

"The money raised will help the school fulfil its objective to offer a '52-week house' to help staff look after those children who do not have families to go to in the holidays."

Frilford Heath's new captains Maurice Alphandary and Maudie Beardall will be supporting Silver Star and Sobell House respectively.

Looking for a trouble-free weekend in Bahrain

F1 - Renault

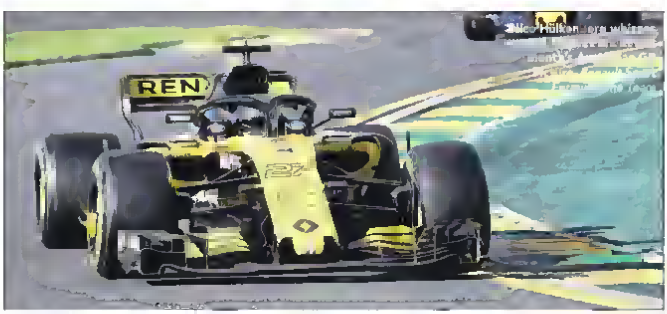
RENAULT need another trouble-free weekend at the Bahrain GP as they look to build on a solid opening round in Australia.

The Enstone-based side want to improve on a "strong" showing in Melbourne as Formula 1 prepares for a double-header away from its Oxfordshire base.

The races come thick and fast and the calendar takes the team to Bahrain on Sunday before China the following week.

Nico Hulkenberg and Carlos Sainz scooped seven points as both drivers finished in the top 10 last time out.

Managing director Cyril Abiteboul said: "Bahrain is the second race of the year and we need another trouble-free weekend, especially as we enter a double-header far away from our European base, to Australia, there were a number of strong points, reliability, performance and the final result. We did not have any reliability issues, nor our two partner teams (Red Bull and McLaren)."



Hulkenberg has his sights on reducing the gap to the front runners.

The Dane said: "I really enjoy Bahrain as the heat is guaranteed and the atmosphere is always good to experience.

"After Australia, we've sent out a positive message from Enstone but we need to reduce the gap to the front and that's the challenge."

Team-mate Sainz added: "Scoring points at the first Grand Prix of the year is always important and the pace was there, so I can't wait to jump into the car in Bahrain."

Oxford-Cambridge match to stay at Twickenham for the next three years

Rugby

A NEW agreement has been struck to keep the Varsity Match between Oxford and Cambridge universities at Twickenham Stadium.

The deal with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) means the game will stay at the home of England Rugby until 2021.

The men's varsity match has been played at the stadium since 1921 and the women's match since 2015.

The agreement will cover three landmark years for both clubs and the fixture, with the 150th anniversary of both clubs and the 100th anniversary year of the men's match at Twickenham.

Stephen Brown, RFU chief executive, said: "We're delighted to welcome back Oxford and Cambridge Universities to Twickenham for the men's and women's Varsity matches.

"This is one of rugby's oldest fixtures and we look forward to hosting this great contest for four more years."

The Light Blues of Cambridge lead Oxford 63-59 with 14 games drawn in the men's discipline.

In the women's, played since 1988 but only at the national stadium since 2015, Oxford currently lead the series, 19-12.

Last year's matches saw a double victory for Cambridge with the women claiming a 24-0 triumph before their male counterparts won 20-18 to lift The Rhino Trophy.

The 2018 game is set for December 6.

Alfie jumps for joy and glory at championships

Showjumping

AN Oxfordshire rider was jumping for joy after winning his category at the British Showjumping Spring Championships last month.

Alfie Bradstock, from Wantage, won the Winter Grade C Championship on board Fuzeta Beech, a nine year-old grey mare owned by Tracy Priest.

Fuzeta was bred by Derek Morton and Geoff Glazzard at Beech House Stud and joined Alfie last September.

Alfie said: "She's very quick and jumps better with a bit of pace.

"The track suited her nicely, she likes to keep moving on – and I had my instructions from the boss – Tracy."

British Showjumping's Spring Championships took place at Addington Manor in Buckingham giving members four days of jumping and eight championship titles to aim for.

The event attracted competitors from the length and breadth of the country all hoping to claim at least one of the championships on offer.

London 2012 course designer Bob Ellis and Nigel Jass designed the courses available to riders at the Championships.

The event gave some great competition across the show's entirety with members enjoying the opportunity to compete across some former Olympic Games fences.

Sports

Red card marks Hoops' misery

Oxford City

IT was an Easter bank holiday to forget for Oxford City who came up short against Chippenham Town on Monday after Friday's trip to Braintree was abandoned.

The Hoops were left to rue missed opportunities in Monday's clash at Marsh Lane after Mark Jones' men fell behind to Jake Jackson's 29th minute winner

Zak McEachran lined up in an attacking role alongside Matt Paterson while Craig King kept his place between the sticks

Lee Henderson took a place on the bench for the first time since his last first team appearance on November 11

The visitors had the first opportunity on goal when Karnell Chambers' shot from distance deflected off Connor Stevens in the three-man defence and went out for a corner

A spell of action in the opening exchanges saw City have two good opportunities to take the lead but the home side squandered them.

The Bluebirds' Dean Evans was given the first booking of the game on 13 minutes for a foul on Freddie Grant, which only served to dampen the atmosphere inside the ground.

In the 29th minute, a loose ball fell to Jackson in space who unleashed a shot 30 yards from goal past a helpless King in the City goal.

It proved to be the decisive moment in the game as Chippenham weathered the storm to see out the game with their clean sheet intact.

City's best chance of the game came with less than 15 minutes of the second half remaining.

Eddie Jones clipped a ball through to McEachran waiting in the box, who forced the Chippenham keeper to save with his feet.

The ball rebounded wide and the resultant corner came to nothing.

Things went from bad to worse for City who finished the tie with 10 men as Jones was shown a straight red in the final minute.

The defeat came after Friday's weather conditions at the Ironmongery Direct Stadium were less than good forcing the fixture against Braintree Town to be abandoned on 30 minutes

Eddie Jones was shown a straight red in tha final minute, compounding City's disappointing bank holiday weekend. Picture *Michael Allen*

Oxford City return to action on Saturday when they host Eastbourne Borough.

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Kidlington P-P Swindon Supermarine
North Leigh P-P **Didcot Town**

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 31 March
Abingdon United 0-2 Brimscombe & Thrupp
Oxford City Nomads 4-3 Highmoor Ibis
Monday 2 April
Abingdon United P-P Highmoor Ibis
Burnham P-P **Oxford City Nomads**
Wantage Town 3-1 Tuffley Rovers

Last-minute equaliser halts arrival of three points

Evo-Stik West

DIDCOT Town heralded the Easter weekend with a 1 1 draw at home to Cinderford Town on Saturday

Diddy were forced into three changes ahead of the tie with recalls for Sam Barder Louis Joyce and Matt Woodley

George Reid gave the Railwaymen the lead in the second half shortly after Callum McNish was shown red for his reaction to a challenge on 55 minutes.

Cinderford tucked away a header with a minute remaining to disappoint the on looking faithful at The Loop

Bank Holiday Monday's Oxfordshire derby between Didcot Town and North Leigh was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Leigh's Saturday trip to Barnstaple Town was also called off after a pitch inspection, as was Kidlington FC's match with Swindon Supermarine on Monday

Kidlington's loss at Taunton Town saw the home side automatically promoted as Evo-Stik South West champions

The league leaders found themselves 1-0 down to the Greens at half time in front of a crowd of 555 but Taunton showed the kind of form that has seen them promoted to eventually win 3-2

Kidlington (13th) travel to Paulton Rovers on Saturday while 18th placed North Leigh face a trip to bottom club Bishops Cleeve.

Didcot were due to play Hitchin Town on Wednesday in the Challenge Cup Final as we went to print

Georgia Reid scored Didcot's only goal of the game in their draw at home to Cinderford. Picture *Roger Neal*

Teenager skis his way to gold

Skiing

AN Oxford teenage skiing sensation claimed gold at the Delancey British Alpine Skiing Championships in Tignes on Monday

Jack Cunningham, 16, started the championships with a first placed podium finish in the Under-16 Super G race with a time of 55.13 seconds.

The Championships showcases some of the hottest prospects in the sport.

Jack, who races for Team Evolution and trains in Leogang, Austria, said, "I'm aiming for victory hopefully in Giant Slalom and then Slalom, but we'll see how it goes.

"It's good to be able to compete against the rest of the country and see where you stand. And it's just good fun.

"Next season I'd like to qualify for the Youth Olympics so that I'll probably be my main goal next year

"I'm going to Chile in summer and then just training in Europe during the winter, focusing on Giant Slalom and Super G—they'll be the main two."

■ To follow the progress of the Delancey British Alpine Ski Team visit www.teambea.org.uk or follow @teambea on Twitter. As Principal Sponsor of British Ski and Snowboard, specialist real estate investment and advisory company Delancey is proud to be able to provide British athletes with the support they require to win World Cup and Winter Olympic medals. For more information visit www.delancey.com

Thame humbled by five-goal defeat after losing lead

Evo-Stik East

THAME United suffered a humiliating 7 2 defeat away to Aylesbury United on Monday despite taking the lead.

The result is Thame's third loss in a row and the third time this season the south Oxfordshire side have been beaten by five clear goals in the league

Jamie Essex scored the opening goal of the game in the second minute to put the visitors 1 0 up.

The lead lasted just nine minutes before Aylesbury levelled, followed by two more before half time.

Aylesbury were 4-1 ahead with 10 minutes remaining before star striker Lynton Goss grabbed a late consolation on 83 minutes.

The rout was completed in stoppage time when a seventh was added to the scoreline for a not so happy Easter for last year's Hellenic Premier champions

The result moves Aylesbury to within five points of the Oxfordshire side, who sit one place above their Buckinghamshire neighbours in 12th in the Evo-Stik East on 51 points

Thame have a game in hand over 11th placed Ashford Town after their match with Arlesey Town on Saturday was called off following a pitch inspection

Thame next face a trip to Uxbridge on Saturday

Elsewhere, in the Evo-Stik Premier, ninth placed Banbury United's Easter weekend games with Frome Town and Stratford Town were both called off.

Right said Freds, we're nearly at the top of the table

Hellenic round-up

WANTAGE Town moved to within four points of the summit of the Hellenic Premier following a 3-1 win over Tuffley Rovers on Monday

The victory puts Wantage on 78 points and third in the table with a game in hand over league leaders Highworth Town.

Wantage fell behind to mid-table Tuffley in the second half after looking second best in the opening 45 minutes

Warren Mann lobbed the onrushing Curtis Meare on 54 minutes but Wantage levelled two minutes later through a curling Jack Dunmall effort from the edge of the area.

The home side eventually took the lead on 75 minutes through skipper Chris Jackson before Nick Thorne scored deep into injury time.

Wantage travel to Royal Wootton Bassett on Saturday to keep up their assault on the league title.

Elsewhere Oxford City Nomads moved into the top half of the table following Saturday's 4 3 win over Highmoor Ibis, before Monday's trip to Burnham was postponed.

The win keeps the Nomads ninth in the league, level on points with Abingdon United in 10th.

Abingdon's Bank Holiday Monday clash with Highmoor Ibis was called off meaning the south Oxfordshire side were unable to make amends for Saturday's 2 0 home defeat to Brimscombe & Thrupp.

Half-time roasting sets up under-done United

By George Welch

Oxford United 1
James Henry 56

Scunthorpe United 1
Ivan Toney 12

Attendance: 7,479 (268 away)

PENALTY hero James Henry admitted to changing his mind when he slotted home Oxford United's equaliser in Good Friday's 1-1 draw at home to Scunthorpe United.

After what happened the previous week against Portsmouth it took a brave man to step up and take a penalty in Oxford colours.

Undeterred, Henry stroked the ball into the net after Iron goalkeeper Matt Gilks, who initially guessed correctly, began his dive early enough for the former Millwall and Wolves man to switch sides.

The goal was enough to earn an unlikely point after the wasteful visitors failed to capitalise on their totally dominant first half.

Henry said: "It was either me or Wes [Thomas] who were going to take them [penalties against Scunthorpe] but Wes wasn't on the pitch and I was more than happy to step up and luckily I scored.

"I actually changed my mind halfway through because I saw the keeper move so early."

The 28-year-old added: "I'm just delighted we got something from the game because, to be totally honest, in the first half we were absolutely terrible.

"We got a good roasting at half time and sometimes that's what you need, especially when you put in a performance like that.

"I don't know what it was – nothing was working for us and it took some guts to come out and perform like that in the second half.

"It was a massive point."

And it was certainly a case of a point gained rather than two points dropped, even with the improved second half showing.

Ivan Toney fired the Iron in front after 12 minutes with his fifth goal from eight starts.

Hakeeb Adelakun and Josh Morris both went close as the play-off hopefuls attempted to stretch their lead.

That was before Toney struck the post and Rob Dickie and Henry who looked to use his arm, blocked efforts on the goal line.

Substitute Jon Obika was adjudged to have been tripped by Scunthorpe's Jordan Clarke and Henry netted the equaliser on 56 minutes.

Adelakun struck the bar for the visitors with a late curling shot but United held on for the first point of Karl Robinson's reign.

Oxford United's youngsters celebrate at the Kassam
Picture: Darrell Fisher

Penalty misery for U's

OUFC Youth

THERE was a steep learning curve for Oxford United's youngsters as they threw away a 2-0 lead against Luton Town to crash out of the EFL Youth Alliance Southern Area Cup on penalties.

Playing in front of more than 500 fans at the Kassam Stadium on Saturday, second half strikes from Dejan Noel-Williams and Albie Hopkins gave the young U's the lead.

Noel-Williams grabbed the opener shortly after the break when the striker, one of five scholars to be offered a professional contract for next season, prodded the ball home under pressure.

United doubled their lead on the hour when Noel-Williams turned provider for Hopkins, whose angled shot was too strong for the Luton keeper.

But the Southern Area final, the Alliance Cup's semi-final stage, turned on its head when Josh Neufville's back-post effort and a last-minute header from captain Joe Mead made it 2-2, halting Oxford's progress to the final right at the death.

There was more heartbreak to follow for the U's however as the Hatters won the subsequent penalty shootout after 16 spot kicks.

Skipper Matt Berry-Hargreaves had his penalty saved by Tiernan Parker in the visitors' goal to set up a Luton Town v Wigan Athletic national final, the latter beating Hartlepool 5-0 in the Northern Area final.

Nelson's hopes sunk by water-hit pitch

A WATERLOGGED pitch sank Curtis Nelson's plans for a return to action on Tuesday afternoon.

The Oxford United skipper was due to play his first game since rupturing his Achilles in November but heavy rain over the weekend led to the development game at Stevenage being called off.

The 24-year-old was due to partner Mike Williamson in the centre of defence, with Ivo Pekalski also continuing his return in midfield, but the trio will now have to wait for their return to action.

Speaking after the Shrewsbury defeat on Monday, U's boss Karl Robinson said: "Curtis has trained all week and is ready to play a game again.

"Whether we will see him in first team action again this season isn't clear yet but he is doing well and is a natural leader so it is good to have him involved again, and Mike as well.

"I think we have a lot of leaders in the dressing room and right now we need them all as we go into a very important stage of the season."

Nelson scored one goal – which came in the 3-3 draw at home to Rotherham in October – in 19 games this season before his injury in the 2-1 defeat at home to Northampton on November 11.

Curtis Nelson leaves the pitch on a stretcher in November
Picture: Steve Daniels

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Blackburn Rovers	36	38	62
2	Shrewsbury Town	40	22	61
3	Wigan Athletic	38	47	60
4	Rotherham United	40	16	66
5	Peterborough United	40	14	61
6	Charlton Athletic	39	6	61
7	Portsmouth	40	3	61
8	Scunthorpe United	40	6	60
9	Plymouth Argyle	36	4	60
10	Bristol Rovers	40	-4	54
11	Bradford City	36	7	53
12	Southend United	40	-10	53
13	Fleetwood Town	40	-4	51
14	Doncaster Rovers	36	2	49
15	Gillingham	39	-4	49
16	Blackpool	40	-6	47
17	Oxford United	39	-8	46
18	Walsall	39	11	44
19	Oldham Athletic	39	-14	43
20	AFC Wimbledon	39	-13	42
21	MK Dons	40	14	42
22	Rochdale	38	-6	41
23	Northampton Town	41	-33	40
24	Bury	40	26	30

Imogen's instant impact earns a draw

OUFCW

DEBUTANT Imogen Lancaster made an instant impact in yellow to end Oxford United Women's five-match losing streak.

The teenager poked home just before half time to level the scores and earn a 1-1 draw at Durham Women on Sunday.

Jordan Atkinson gave the hosts a deserved lead midway through the first half and the northerners should have added to their tally but were wasteful in front of goal.

They were made to pay for their missed chances on the stroke of half time when Lancaster, a seventh minute substitute, levelled the scores.

Both sides went for a winner in the second half but struggled to create anything clear-cut and neither could find the all-important goal.

The draw came just three days after the U's were stung by former player Rosie Lane and her London Bees side.

United, the hosts, threw away a two-goal advantage to lose 3-2. Lane scoring the winner six minutes from time.

Emily Allen and Taome Oliver gave Oxford a two-goal lead after 20 minutes but the Bees struck back through Paula Howells (23 minutes), Destiney Toussaint (59) and Lane (84).

United, who have slipped to seventh in WSL2, are next in action when they host Tottenham Hotspur on April 16.

Sport

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More sport inside: U's First point under new boss | Oxford City Red card marks Hoops' miserable weekend | F1 Haas dismiss 'Ferrari clone' claims

U's boss Karl Robinson gets the players in a post-match huddle after tha draw against Scunthorpe Picture: Steve Daniels

Robbo's rallying cry

By George Welch

Shrewsbury Town 3

Shaun Whalley 40 & 64, Jon Nolan 47

Oxford United 2

Wes Thomas 61, Joe Rothwell 73

Attendance: 7,191 (674 away)

KARL Robinson has admitted his Oxford United side are in a relegation 'dog fight' after losing 3-2 at promotion hopefuls Shrewsbury Town on Monday

The U's twice fought back to within a goal but, despite giving it their all, suffered their ninth defeat in 13 games in all competitions at the hands of the Shrews

It is a terrid run that includes three managers and leaves them four points and four places above the relegation zone

And with critical games against bottom half clubs coming up Robinson knows points are needed – and quickly

"We know the points tally isn't good enough and we re in a bit of a dog fight," he said.

"There are a lot more teams down there that are a little bit different [more threatened] but because we're in the midst of it, it s a little bit scary

"I've said to the players that they re in a dog fight but it is what it is, the performances are certainly there and not of a team in that position."

The former Charlton Athletic boss admitted Oxford rode their luck against Shrewsbury but is sure his side has enough quality to remain a League One club.

Two goals from Shaun Whalley and a deflected effort from Jon Nolan earned Shrewsbury all three points

United showed plenty of spirit and twice pulled themselves back into the game through Wes Thomas and Joe Rothwell.

But it was not enough and Robinson was left scratching his chin

He said: "I've been here three games and to only get a point out of those three performances is baffling.

"A draw would have been fair [against Shrewsbury], a draw was fair the other day [against Scunthorpe] and we should have won the first one [3-0 loss at Portsmouth]."

Now as Robinson s search for his first win as manager continues 17th-placed Oxford face a potentially season defining week with three home games.

Oldham Athletic (19th) and Fleetwood Town (13th) are first up on Saturday and Tuesday respectively before the U's welcome Southend United to the Kassam Stadium on April 14.

'Time to roll our sleeves up and get the points'

ROB Dickie has urged his colleagues to 'roll up their sleeves' as Oxford United aim to secure their League One status by the end of a crucial week at home

The struggling U s face three successive home games in the space of eight days as they limp towards the magic 50-point mark.

Two more wins would secure their third-tier position in theory and defender Dickie wants to get the scores on the board as quick as possible

Speak ng after the latest defeat – a 3-2 loss at second-placed Shrewsbury Town – the 22-year-old said: "We haven t got the rub of the green recently but that s football – we have to take it on the chin and move on

"We ve got three big games against teams that are around us which will be nice because we've played a lot of the top eight recently

"With the talent in that dressing room we've definitely got enough to win them."

The former Reading man added "When the chips are down it s tough. We've really got to roll our sleeves up and go for it in the next week.

"There s no lack of effort, commitment or desire at all

"Everyone in there is in it together there s no-one slacking it off or anything

"We're all committed to get the job done as early as possible."

Despite United s struggles Dickie has impressed at centre back and has started the last eight games.

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